

June 3, 1989

Poland: Solidarity Outcampaigns Party

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Summary:

An analysis of what political actions Solidarity must take to assert its role in the new government.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

2253

~~Top Secret~~

[Redacted]

6.2(d)

Poland: Solidarity Outcampaigns Party

After a slow start, Solidarity found its feet and mounted a Western-style election campaign complete with brass bands, bumper stickers, and stump speeches. As the campaign took hold, popular apathy gave way to cautious but growing optimism and enthusiasm. Buses in major cities were festooned with opposition placards, Solidarity lapel pins were widely visible, and thousands of citizens bought Solidarity coupons or "bricks" that helped finance races and that will become souvenirs.

In contrast, the party never shed its stilted, rigid public style, and its campaign fizzled. Clumsy rallies often drew only a few score faithful while opposition events drew thousands. By midcampaign, it was clear that the party label doomed candidates to defeat; [Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

[Redacted] an official list of Communist candidates was not public information.

Despite the mismatch, most opposition observers expect a relatively fair election. The regime, aware of the consequences of cheating both at home and abroad, is honoring its promise to permit opposition poll judges and ballot-counting observers and appears to have no plans to steal the election.

[Redacted]

6.2(d)

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