

**July 25, 1989**

**Czechoslovakia: Polish Solidarity Increases Its Support to Opponents of Czechoslovak Regime**

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**Summary:**

An analysis of Solidarity's increased support to Czechoslovakia's opposition.

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**Contents:**

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[redacted]

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**Polish Solidarity Increases Its Support to Opponents of Czechoslovak Regime**

Representatives of Solidarity's parliamentary faction met openly over the weekend in Czechoslovakia with Vaclav Havel; Cardinal Tomasek, head of the Czechoslovak Catholic Church; former party leader Alexander Dubcek; and other independent activists. The Poles and the Czechoslovaks issued a joint communique calling for release of Czechoslovak political prisoners and citing the Polish roundtable negotiations as an example for Czechoslovakia.

In addition, Polish-Czechoslovak Solidarity, a group founded in 1978 to exchange information and coordinate dissident activities in the two countries, has smuggled four 60-watt radio transmitters into Czechoslovakia. [redacted] Radio Solidarity provided the equipment, and its experts plan to begin clandestine Czech language broadcasts next month, possibly keyed to the anniversary of the Soviet occupation.

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The Solidarity visit and technical support probably will spur Czechoslovak dissidents to form a united opposition. The Prague regime surely recognizes the risks of inaction but probably was reluctant to intervene because the Poles represent a legal party that Moscow has shown it is willing to deal with. Failure to react will probably increase the perception that the regime is not in control and may encourage more people to actively defy its policies.

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