

March 12, 1981

**Memorandum from John McMahon to the Secretaries
of State and Defense and Director of the National
Security Agency, '[Redacted] Report'**

Citation:

"Memorandum from John McMahon to the Secretaries of State and Defense and Director of the National Security Agency, '[Redacted] Report'", March 12, 1981, Wilson Center Digital Archive, CIA declassification, 2008
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Summary:

Translation discussing how to keep telecommunications and the postal service up during strikes.

Credits:

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

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[Redacted]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

12 March 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
Director, National Security Agency

FROM : John N. McMahon
Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT : [Redacted] Report

1. Enclosed is a [Redacted] report. For convenience of reference by NFIB agencies, the codeword [Redacted] has been assigned to the product of certain extremely sensitive agent sources of CIA's Directorate of Operations. The word [Redacted] is classified [Redacted] and is to be used only among persons authorized to read and handle this material.

2. This report must be handled in accordance with established security procedures. It may not be reproduced for any purpose. Requests for extra copies of this report or for utilization of any part of this report in any other form should be addressed to the originating office.

[Redacted]
John N. McMahon

FIRDB-312/00764-81

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RELEASE IN PART
EXEMPTION: HR70-143
DATE: 08-18-2008

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Distribution:

The Secretary of State

The Secretary of Defense

Director of Central Intelligence

Director of Intelligence and Research
Department of State

Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

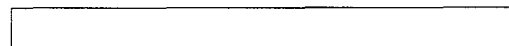
Director, National Security Agency

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Director of the National Foreign Assessment Center

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Intelligence Information Special Report

COUNTRY Poland

FIRDB-312/00764-81

DATE OF INFO. February 1981

DATE 12 March 1981

SUBJECT

Ministry of Communications Preparation for Fulfilment of Tasks Under Special Conditions

SOURCE

Documentary

Summary:

This report is a translation of a memorandum, classified SECRET, of the Minister of Communications on the preparation of the Ministry for carrying out tasks under special conditions (strikes). It discusses the tasks for ensuring the continuity of operation of telecommunications, radio and TV, and the postal service. It also discusses measures initiated and planned for the restriction of postal and telecommunications services and certain communications facilities. Of particular note are the measures for countermeasures against Free Europe broadcasts.

End of Summary

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SECRET

Polish Peoples Republic
Minister of Communications

Chief of General Staff of
Polish Armed Forces
Deputy Minister of National Defense
General of Arms Florian SIWICKI

Warsaw

February 1981

In accordance with the agreement of 16
February 1981 I am sending the information on
preparation of the Ministry of Communications
for carrying out tasks under special
conditions.

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SECRET

Polish Peoples Republic
Minister of Communications

MEMORANDUM
concerning the preparation of the Ministry of
Communications for carrying out tasks under
special conditions (strikes)

I. Main tasks of the Ministry of Communications under special conditions (strikes).

The following should be included among the tasks of the Ministry of Communications under special conditions (strikes):

1. Assuring continuity of telecommunications primarily for the use of:

- management and regulation of the state and national economy;

- PPR Armed Forces and the Soviet Army;

- organs of security and public order;

- international cooperation with socialist countries;

- movement of the populace.

2. Assuring continuity of the operation of transmitter base and radio and television transmission communications systems.

3. Assuring continuity of operation of postal communications including: system for delivering draft cards for the Armed Forces, money turnover, and official correspondence.

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4. Controlling and analyzing the effectiveness of radio countermeasures against "Free Europe" (RFE) broadcasts and cooperating in this area with the USSR Ministry of Communications.

II. Initiated and planned actions in the area of ensuring continuity of operation of the state telecommunications network and radio and television stations.

Permanent measures

1. Permanent allocation duty service for telecommunications and radio and television stations was reinforced;

2. Protection of communications installations protected by ministerial industrial protective guards was increased;

3. Alternate power sources (fuel and electric power generators) were checked and prepared for operation in basic telecommunications installations and television and ultrashortwave radio transmitters;

4. Rules were worked out for dispersion of communications transport vehicles by assigning a necessary number of vehicles to telecommunications units and radio and television stations for use as technological equipment.

5. Telephone alert duty was initiated for the leadership personnel of the ministry and subordinate organizational units, including enterprises.

Special measures

1. Operational and decisionmaking groups made up of trusted and competent persons were appointed in the Ministry of Communications, the district postal and telecommunications headquarters, the headquarters of provincial telecommunications and postal offices, the radio and television association and enterprises, the Head Office of Interurban Telecommunications, as well as in selected organizational units of communications transport and construction.

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2. Teams of trusted personnel for servicing technical-operating equipment and repairing breakdowns in cable network and radio lines were assigned in individual organizational units of the Ministry of Communications, in selected telecommunications installations, as well as in radio and television stations.

3. In consultation with the Ministry of National Defense (MND):

- takeover by the military of protection of basic telecommunications installations and radio and television stations (167 installations in all) was planned and arranged;

- twenty-three Signal Troop officers were temporarily installed as deputy directors of provincial telecommunications offices and other selected organizational units in the Ministry of Communications;

- a proposal was made to the General Staff to establish positions of deputy directors/chiefs of military departments in the district postal and telecommunications headquarters.

4. In consultation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA):

- authorized representatives of MIA for security matters (103 persons) were installed in the headquarters of basic organizational units of the Ministry of Communications (BDLM [expansion unknown], district postal and telecommunications headquarters, provincial telecommunications and postal offices, Radio and TV Station Association, Head Office of Interurban Telecommunications).

- it was agreed to reinforce the operational and patrol protection of selected communications installations by forces of organs of security and public order.

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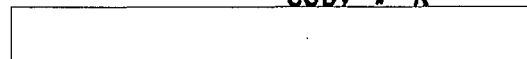
III. Planned measures for restriction of postal and telecommunication services and restriction of operation of specified communications facilities.

The following was worked out together with MND (Secretariat of National Defense Committee) and MIA (interested departments and services):

1) Draft of an ordinance of the Council of Ministers concerning execution of the provisions of a decree on protecting national security and public order during the period when martial law* is in effect. The ordinance regulates:

- establishment of censorship of mail and telecommunications traffic and monitoring of telephone conversations,
- restriction of postal and telecommunications services,

* [Translator's Note: The expression "martial law" is an arbitrary translation of the Polish stan wojenny, literally "military or wartime state." This is a state of law covering situations of threat from abroad and from domestic anti-government forces. The normal Polish term for martial law (stan wyjątkowy) has been declared as inapplicable under socialism-communism and only used in reference to capitalist countries which were reportedly prone habitually to suspend rights of citizens indefinitely. Stan wojenny is defined by the Encyklopedia Powszechna (General Encyclopedia), published in 1973 as a state of law, the introduction of which suspends temporarily certain civil rights and increases government authority and obligations of citizens. The propaganda-based concept-straddling stan wojenny introduced linguistic confusion and the Leksykon Wiedzy Wojskowej (Military Lexicon), published in 1979, already noted that it was sometimes used (particularly in Poland) synonymously with the purged stan wyjątkowy. The term seems to have been rehabilitated for use in the present crisis situation in Poland.]

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- suspension and restriction of operation of communications facilities,

- taking custody of privately and club owned amateur radio transmitting and transmitting-receiving equipment.

2) Executive instructions regarding procedures for organizational telecommunications units for censorship of telecommunications traffic, monitoring telephone conversations, and restriction of telecommunications services;

3) Executive instructions regarding procedures for organizational postal units for censorship of mail and restriction of postal services.

4) Executive instructions regarding procedures for suspension or restriction of operation of transmitting or transmitting-receiving radio facilities.

5) Decisions and orders regarding the immediate turnoff of specified (in consultation with MIA) communications centers and facilities of:

- leased international telephone and telegraph communications centers,

- radiophonic and television communications centers of the Committee for Radio and Television for traffic originating in PPR,

- facilities of permanent international radiocommunications.

IV. Planned and carried out measures for radio countermeasures against "Free Europe" broadcasts.

1. An analysis and evaluation was made of the effectiveness of the radio countermeasures conducted against RFE broadcasts in the Polish language on nine bands.

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2. The exchange of information with the Ministry of Communications of the USSR on the effectiveness of counteracting RFE broadcasts was intensified.

3. A request was submitted to the Ministry of Communications of the USSR to increase radio countermeasures in the area of Central and Western Poland and in the coastal area on the 41- and 31-meter bands.

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