

**January 25, 1982**  
**Intelligence Information Cable, 'Soviet Penetration  
of the Polish Military'**

**Citation:**

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<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/165345>

**Summary:**

Cable discusses the influence of the Soviets in the Polish military, including their seemingly unlimited access to confidential material and intelligence. It also lists important Soviet officers.

**Credits:**

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**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

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# Intelligence Information Cable



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DIST 25 JANUARY 1982

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REPORT CLASS

COUNTRY

POLAND/USSR

SUBJECT

SOVIET PENETRATION OF THE POLISH MILITARY  
(DOI: 1981)

RELEASE IN PART  
EXEMPTION: HR70-14  
DATE: 08-19-2008

SOURCE

A FORMER POLISH GENERAL STAFF OFFICER WHO MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS BASED ON HIS CONSIDERABLE PAST EXPERIENCE AND CONTACTS. HE HAS REPORTED RELIABLY IN THE PAST.

[ ] COMMENT: SOURCE WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON HIS RECOLLECTIONS WITH RESPECT TO LEVELS OF SOVIET PENETRATION OF THE POLISH MILITARY. HIS RESPONSE FOLLOWS.

1. THE HIGHEST LEVEL SOVIET PENETRATION OF THE POLISH MILITARY EXISTS AT THE SUPREME COMMAND OF THE COMBINED ARMED FORCES OF THE WARSAW PACT'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATION TO THE POLISH ARMED FORCES. THIS REPRESENTATION, HEADED BY SOVIET GENERAL A (SHCHEGLOV), CONSISTS OF ABOUT TEN TO TWELVE SOVIET GENERALS AND COLONELS WHO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH POLISH MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (MON) PERSONNEL. WHILE NOT FORMALLY ASSIGNED TO THE MON, THESE SOVIET OFFICERS HAVE PASSES TO ENTER THE MON BUILDING AND ARE GIVEN ACCESS TO POLISH MILITARY DOCUMENTS. (SOURCE COMMENT: WHILE THERE ARE INSTRUCTIONS

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WHICH DELINEATE THE KINDS OF MILITARY DOCUMENTS WHICH MAY BE PASSED TO THE SOVIETS. IN ACTUAL PRACTICE NONE OF THEIR "REQUESTS" FOR DOCUMENTS ARE EVER REFUSED. THROUGH THEIR CONTACTS AND DOCUMENTARY ACCESS, THE SOVIET OFFICERS WERE PROVIDED, INTER ALIA, WITH THE NAMES AND POLITICAL ORIENTATIONS OF POLISH OFFICERS AT THE DIVISION LEVEL, AS WELL AS SOME REGIMENTAL COMMANDERS. IN EFFECT, THE SOVIETS HAVE HAD ACCESS TO BASICALLY THE SAME INFORMATION AS WAS AVAILABLE TO THE POLISH GENERAL STAFF AND MON. MEMBERS OF THIS LEVEL GROUP OF SOVIET OFFICERS OPENLY ADMITTED TO POLISH OFFICERS THAT THEY PASSED DAILY REPORTS ON THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION AND THE SITUATION IN THE POLISH ARMED FORCES TO WARSAW PACT COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF V. I. KULIKOV AND SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER USTINOV, VIA THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AT REMBERTOW. FOLLOWING IS A LIST, THE TITLES AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, THE NAMES OF THESE SOVIET OFFICERS:

- A. THE SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE--SHCHEGLOV;
- B. AIDE FOR ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS--GENERAL KUPRIYANOV  
{TO JULY 1981}, GENERAL BESSMERTNYI {SINCE JULY 1981};
- C. AIDE FOR AIR DEFENSE AND AIR FORCE MATTERS--(A GENERAL);
- D. AIDE FOR TECHNICAL AND ARMAMENT AFFAIRS--(A GENERAL);

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- E. AIDE FOR REAR AFFAIRS--(A GENERAL);
- F. AIDE FOR COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AFFAIRS--(A GENERAL-MAYOR);
- G. AIDE FOR OPERATIONAL AFFAIRS--COLONEL (FNU) (SHARANGIN);
- H. AIDE FOR NAVAL AFFAIRS--(A CAPTAIN 1ST RANK);
- I. TWO TRANSLATORS--(A COLONEL AND CAPTAIN (FNU) (GRYBKOV));
- J. AN ADDITIONAL TWO OR THREE OFFICERS AND FIVE OR SIX CIVILIANS.

(SOURCE COMMENT: IN JULY 1981, KULILOV HOPED TO EXPAND THIS STAFF BY AN ADDITIONAL TWELVE OFFICERS. BUT POLISH DEFENSE MINISTER WOJCIECH JARUZELSKI ONLY AGREED TO THREE ADDITIONAL OFFICERS WHOSE TITLES WERE: AIDE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS; AIDE FOR "FRONT" AFFAIRS; REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMBINED BALTIC FLEET TO THE POLISH NAVY.)

2. A SECOND LEVEL OF SOVIET PENETRATION EXISTS AT THE WARSAW PACT HEADQUARTERS IN LEGNICA. AT THE HEADQUARTERS THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 80-100 GENERALS AND OTHER OFFICERS (MAINLY SOVIETS) WHO, SINCE THE SPRING OF 1981, HAVE "CONTINUOUSLY" VISITED POLISH MILITARY UNITS AT THE MILITARY DISTRICT LEVEL, AS WELL AS THROUGH DIVISION AND REGIMENTAL

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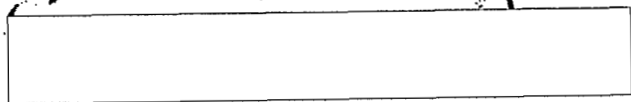
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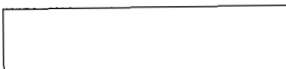
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LEVELS. ACCORDING TO THE POLISH REPRESENTATIVES AT THE LEGNICA HEADQUARTERS, UNDER THE PRETEXT OF EXAMINING POLISH UNITS FOR MILITARY READINESS, THE SOVIETS ALSO CHECKED ON THE MORALE OF THE POLISH TROOPS AND THEIR ABILITY TO FUNCTION UNDER MARTIAL LAW.



3. YET ANOTHER LEVEL OF PENETRATION EXISTED AT THE SOVIET STAFF OF THE REMBERTOW COMMUNICATIONS CENTER. IN THE SPRING OF 1981, THIS STAFF CONSISTED OF ABOUT THIRTY OFFICERS. POLISH GENERALS JERZY {{SKALSKI}}, FLORIAN {{SIWICKI}} AND ANTONI {{JASINSKI}} WERE FREQUENTLY CALLED FOR "INFORMAL TALKS" AT THIS CENTER.



4. SOVIETS ALSO HAVE INFORMAL ACCESS TO POLISH MILITARY OFFICIALS THROUGH THE LATTERS' "RUSSIAN" WIVES. POLISH GENERALS STANISLAW {{ANTOS}}, WLADYSLAW {{SZYMLOWSKI}}, JERZY {{RAKOWSKI}}, AND EUGENIUSZ {{MOLCZYK}} ALL HAVE WIVES WHO ARE SOVIET CITIZENS. THESE WIVES FREQUENTLY HOLD PARTIES TO WHICH SOVIET AND POLISH MILITARY OFFICERS ARE INVITED. SUCH PARTIES AFFORD THE SOVIETS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO ELICIT INFORMATION FROM THE POLES. SOURCE COMMENT: GENERAL CZESLAW {{PIOTROWSKI}} AND TADEUSZ {{KREPSKI}} MAY HAVE WIVES WHO



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ARE SOVIET CITIZENS.]

5. WHILE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE ACCESS TO THE POLISH SECURE {THROUGH "SECRET"} COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM KNOWN AS T.I. {SOVIET EQUIVALENT: Z.A.S.}, IT IS BASED ON SOVIET TECHNOLOGY AND COULD, PERHAPS, BE TAPPED "UNOFFICIALLY." {SOURCE COMMENT: THE SCOPE OF SUCH MONITORING BY THE SOVIETS WOULD BE LIMITED SINCE THE POLISH MILITARY CONTROLS THIS SYSTEM.} HOWEVER, THE TOP SECRET WARSAW PACT HIGH FREQUENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, KNOWN IN THE POLISH MILITARY AS W.C.Z. SYSTEM, IS SERVICED BY THE SPECIAL SOVIET COMMUNICATIONS TROOPS {I.E., EXCHANGES, LINES, RELAY STATIONS} SUBORDINATE TO THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS. [Redacted]

[Redacted] COMMENT: OTHER INFORMATION INDICATES THESE TROOPS AS BEING SUBORDINATE TO THE KGB. THE SOVIETS CAN THEREBY EASILY MONITOR THE TELEPHONIC CONVERSATIONS OF THE POLISH PARTY LEADER, PREMIER, GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE MON.

6. THE SOVIETS ALSO HAVE DIRECT HUMAN CHANNELS OF INFORMATION AND HAVE FREQUENTLY SURPRISED THE POLFS WITH THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF HIGHLY SENSITIVE SUBJECTS. {SOURCE COMMENT: SUCH

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SUBJECTS INCLUDE INFORMATION ON AMMUNITION RESERVES, WEAPONS PRODUCTION, THE TRUE STATE OF READINESS OF POLISH FORCES, ETC. [SOURCE COMMENT: THE POLISH MILITARY OFTEN-TIMES IS FORCED TO "COMPLICATE THE TRUTH" INsofar AS STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE LATTER SUBJECTS IS CONCERNED. HOWEVER, THE SOVIETS SEEMED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO KNOW IN ADVANCE JUST WHERE SUCH "COMPLICATIONS" HAD OCCURRED.] THERE HAVE BEEN CASES IN THE PAST WHERE POLISH GENERAL STAFF OFFICERS HAVE COVERTLY TAKEN HIGHLY CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS OUT OF THE GENERAL STAFF BUILDING TO SOVIET OFFICIALS FOR COPYING. [SOURCE COMMENT: WHEN SUCH CASES ARE DISCOVERED, THE SUSPECT POLISH OFFICER IS USUALLY UPGRADED IN RANK AND DISCRETELY SENT TO THE FIELD IN SOME LESS SENSITIVE CAPACITY.]

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