

MUN199

30 APR 63

TO: YARROW, C/C RICHARDSON, PAGE KAUFMANN, WALTER
FM: OTT FOR SMITH C/C ADAMS FOR BURKS, COLLINS

302024

INFORMATION ON REPORTED UNREST AND SUBSEQUENT REGIME ACTIONS IN POLAND WAS SPARSE DURING THE PERIOD 27/28 AND 29 APRIL. INFORMATION WHICH COULD BE VIEWED AS HARD AND CONFIRMED EMANATING FROM UPI VIENNA AND STOCKHOLM AND FROM OUR OWN BUREAU IN VIENNA, STATES THAT THE POLISH GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION AGAINST SOME OF THE NURSES INVOLVED IN THE PROTESTS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CYRANKIEWICZ SPEECH. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS WHICH CITE BUSINESSMEN AND TOURISTS AS SOURCES, SOME 20 NURSES WERE ARRESTED FOLLOWING THE DEMONSTRATION IN WARSAW. OTHER NURSES HAVE REPORTEDLY LOST THEIR NURSING CERTIFICATES AND HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED FROM DUTY. THEY HAVE BEEN WARNED THAT THEY WILL LOSE THEIR JOBS COMPLETELY IF FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS OCCUR.

THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE UNNECESSARILY HARD MEASURE AS IT HAS BEEN ADMITTED OFFICIALLY - AND OUR PRIVATE ESTIMATE CONCURS - THAT THE NURSES ARE AMONG THE HARDEST WORKING AND MOST UNDERPAID SOCIAL GROUPS IN POLAND. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE NEED FOR NURSES IN ALL KINDS OF INSTITUTIONS IS EXTREMELY ACUTE SINCE THE REGIME HAS BEEN FOLLOWING A POLICY OF ELIMINATING NUNS FROM HOSPITALS AND CLINICS. SINCE THE REPORTS EMANATE FROM A NUMBER OF SOURCES IT WOULD SEEM SAFE TO SAY THAT THE INFORMATION IS KNOWN THROUGHOUT WARSAW, A FACT WHICH WOULD HARDLY CONTRIBUTE TO AN UPLIFT OF MORALE AND GENERAL MOOD IN THE CAPITAL.

ALTHOUGH NOT DIRECTLY RELATABLE TO THE REPORTED INCIDENTS OF LABOR UNREST AVAILABLE HERE IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT GOMULKA, LOGA-SOWINSKI AND TITKOW VISITED THE KAROL WOJCIK FACTORY IN WARSAW ON APRIL 25 AND PAP REPORTS THAT CYRANKIEWICZ GAVE A SPEECH TO RAILWAY MEN FROM ALL OVER POLAND IN CRACOW YESTERDAY. THIS CONCERN FOR PERSONAL APPEARANCES IN MAJOR FACTORIES AND TO MAJOR GROUPS OF WORKERS COULD BE VIEWED AS A REGIME EFFORT TO REESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH WORKERS AND PUT AS GOOD A FACE AS POSSIBLE ON CURRENT ECONOMIC POLICIES.

END MSG