The following information was extracted from DIA WASHINGTON message DTG 131259Z APR 90. It has been transmitted to MNCs and to capitals (MFAs and MODs) under reference SITCEN1703.

POLAND: WALESÁ'S PRESIDENTIAL PLANS.

**MAJOR POINTS**

1. (C) SOLIDARITY CHAIRMAN WALESÁ HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO CHALLENGE PRESIDENT JARUZELSKI IN AN UNSCHEDULED ELECTION.
2. (C) WALESÁ'S PRESIDENCY WOULD GREATLY COMPLICATE THE POLITICAL PROCESS. BUT WALESÁ'S GOAL WOULD STILL BE TO OBTAIN SWEEPING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS ALONG THE LINES OF THOSE CHANGES SOUGHT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER MAZOWIECKI.
3. (C) IF WALESÁ WERE TO BECOME PRESIDENT, HE WOULD TRY TO ALTER WARSAW'S FOREIGN POLICY FUNDAMENTALLY BY DISTANCING POLAND'S STANCE EVEN FURTHER FROM THAT OF THE USSR AND BY PRESSING HIS EARLIER DEMANDS FOR A TOTAL SOVIET TROOP WITHDRAWAL.

**BACKGROUND**

4. (C) WALESÁ APPEARED TO END WEEKS OF SPECULATION ON 10 APRIL BY STATING THAT HE WILL RUN FOR PRESIDENT. THE NEXT DAY, HE QUALIFIED HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT, BUT HE STILL LEFT OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE WILL SEEK THE POST. GEN JARUZELSKI, FORMER FIRST SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, HAS BEEN PRESIDENT SINCE THE POST WAS CREATED LAST YEAR.
5. (C) THE PRESIDENTIAL TERM IS 5 YEARS, AND THE OFFICEHOLDER CAN VETO LEGISLATION, DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT, AND CALL ELECTIONS. THE OFFICE WAS DESIGNED FOR JARUZELSKI, AND IT WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO GIVE THE COMMUNISTS A COUNTERBALANCE TO A LIMITED SOLIDARITY PRESENCE IN THE LEGISLATURE. ANOTHER PURPOSE WAS TO ADDRESS PERCEIVED SOVIET CONCERNS THAT THE COMMUNISTS MAINTAIN OVERALL CONTROL OF POLAND, AN ARRANGEMENT THAT HAS BEEN OBTAINED BY THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNIST LEADERSHIPS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.
6. (C) SINCE POLAND'S COMMUNIST-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT COLLAPSED AN GAVE WAY TO SOLIDARITY RULE, JARUZELSKI HAS BEEN LARGELY ISOLATED AND NEUTRALIZED. JARUZELSKI HAS TRIED TO DISTANCE HIMSELF FROM PARTISAN POLITICS SINCE THE DISSOLUTION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY EARLIER THIS YEAR, AND HE HAS SHIED AWAY FROM CONFRONTATION WITH PARLIAMENT, THUS CEDING IT THE POLITICAL CENTER STAGE.
7. (C) IF, AS SEEMS LIKELY, WALESA PERSISTS WITH HIS PLANS TO
SUCCEED JARUZELSKI EVENTUALLY, HE IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO SUCCEED.
WALESA HAS BOTH THE POLITICAL PULL TO FORCE AN EARLY PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION AND THE POPULAR SUPPORT TO DEFEAT ANY CONCEIVABLE RIVAL.
8. (C) A WALESA PRESIDENCY WOULD GREATLY COMPLICATE THE POLISH
POLITICAL PROCESS, PRIMARILY BECAUSE WALESA WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY
TAKE AN ACTIVIST APPROACH TO HIS JOB. HIS PRIMARY MOTIVATION FOR
SEEKING THE POST PROBABLY RESULTS FROM HIS BELIEF THAT HE CAN USE
THE POWERS OF THE PRESIDENCY AND HIS KEEN SENSE OF THE PUBLIC MOOD
TO PREVENT SERIOUS UNREST WHILE GENERALLY SUPPORTING THE
GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC REFORM EFFORTS. WALESA MIGHT THEREFORE
CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT TO OFFER A BETTER JUSTIFICATION OF THE MORE
ONEROUS ASPECTS OF ITS AUSTERITY EFFORTS AND TO PRESS FOR CHANGES TO
POLICIES THAT HE BELIEVES HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO STIR SERIOUS UNREST.
IN ADDITION, WALESA WOULD USE THE POST TO ENSURE POLITICAL REFORMS
BY, FOR EXAMPLE, PUSHING FOR THE OUSTING OF ENTRENCHED COMMUNIST
BUREAUCRATS.
9. (C) WALESA WOULD ALSO TRY TO ALTER POLISH FOREIGN POLICY
FUNDAMENTALLY BY FURTHER DISTANCING WARSAW'S POSITIONS FROM THOSE
ESPoused BY MOSCOW. HE WOULD RESOLUTELY OPPOSE ARGUMENTS THAT
POLAND MUST REMAIN CLOSE TO THE USSR. IN LINE WITH THESE BELIEFS,
WALESA WOULD WORK TOWARD THE NEAR-TERM DISBANDMENT OF THE WARSAW
PACT. HE WOULD ALSO WORK TO ACHIEVE HIS STATED DESIRE FOR A SPEEDY,
TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS FROM POLAND.

OUTLOOK

10. (C) WALESA HAS NOT YET ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF WHEN THE
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SHOULD TAKE PLACE. JARUZELSKI'S TERM IS NOT
SCHEDULED TO END UNTIL 1994. THE MOST LIKELY SCENARIO WOULD BE A
SPECIAL ELECTION FOR PRESIDENT, AND POSSIBLY FOR A NEW PARLIAMENT AS
WELL, IN EARLY FALL OR NEXT SPRING AT THE LATEST. THE TIMING OF
SUCH AN ELECTION COULD ALSO BE AFFECTED BY JARUZELSKI, WHO BY SOME
ACCOUNTS IS DEMORALIZED AND MAY SOON RESIGN. THE 19 TO 24 APRIL
SOLIDARITY CONGRESS SHOULD PROVIDE SOME INDICATION OF WALESA'S
PLANS.