

NOV 23

13:39

OUTGOING CIPHER MESSAGE

TO:

MUN 71

23 NOV 67

TO: SCHNEIDER INFO RICHARDSON KAUFMANN ROWSON
FM: WALTER INFO DURKEE COLLINS COOK DIAMOND KINGSLEY LYON REYMAN

23/1304

OPD HIGHLIGHTS NO. 31.

RADIO WARSAW ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING THAT THE TENTH CC PLENUM WILL MEET TOMORROW, NOVEMBER 24, AND WILL BE DEVOTED TO PROBLEMS OF "MARKET SUPPLIES." THE FORTHCOMING PLENUM WAS PREVIOUSLY REFERRED TO ONLY BY TANJUG FROM WARSAW (19 NOV.), WHICH SAID THAT IT WOULD DEAL WITH THE SHORTAGE OF MEAT SUPPLIES AND ORDER INCREASES IN MEAT PRICES.

MEAT SHORTAGES HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE POLISH AND WESTERN PRESS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. DEMAND HAS INCREASED AS EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE INCREASES HAVE EXCEEDED PLANNED LIMITS, WHILE SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN BELOW PLANNED QUANTITIES, IN PART BECAUSE OF PREVIOUS MANIPULATION OF PRICES. PRICE INCREASES WOULD RATION THE EXISTING SUPPLIES AND ENCOURAGE GREATER PRODUCTION.

THE CALLING OF A PLENUM AT THIS TIME INDICATES THAT THE MEAT SHORTAGES MUST BE REGARDED AS SERIOUS BY THE PARTY LEADERSHIP. THE NINTH PLENUM, SPECIFICALLY DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS, WAS HELD ONLY TWO MONTHS AGO, ON 28-29 SEPTEMBER, AND THE SCHEDULING OF TWO PLENUMS WITHIN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD IS, IN ANY CASE, UNPRECEDENTED FOR GOMULKA. A POSSIBILITY OF PERSONNEL CHANGES EXISTS. IN 1959, GOMULKA REACTED TO A SIMILAR MEAT CRISIS BY ORDERING AUSTERITY MEASURES AND RETURNING MANY OF THE PURGED DOGMATISTS OF 1956 TO POSITIONS OF POWER. IN THE PRESENT SITUATION OF SOME TENSIONS AT THE TOP OF THE PARTY, A DESIRE TO FIND A SCAPEGOAT MAY BE EXPECTED. OUR ONLY INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUAL VIEWS IS THAT MOCZAR IS REPORTED TO HAVE DEMANDED MEAT PRICE INCREASES.

END MSG