

**September 11, 1981**

**Memorandum from Clair George to the Secretaries  
of State and Defense and Director of the National  
Security Agency, 'Current Plans for the Introduction  
of Martial Law in Poland'**

**Citation:**

"Memorandum from Clair George to the Secretaries of State and Defense and Director of the National Security Agency, 'Current Plans for the Introduction of Martial Law in Poland'", September 11, 1981, Wilson Center Digital Archive, CIA declassification, 2008. <https://wilson-center.drivingcreative.com/document/165307>

**Summary:**

Explains that if Solidarnosc leads a general strike or provokes a confrontation, it will be met with the implementation of martial law.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

11 September 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense  
Assistant to the President for  
National Security Affairs  
Director, National Security Agency

FROM : Clair George  
Acting Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT : Current Plans for the Introduction of  
Martial Law in Poland

1. [ ] Comment: The following information is from an extremely sensitive source and, therefore, recipients should hold this report very closely.]

2. A reliable source who has excellent access in the Polish Ministry of Defense reported that on 7 September 1981 Jaruzelski interrupted his visit to the USSR and returned to Poland. On 9 September General of Arms Florian Siwicki, after consultation with Jaruzelski, informed a select group of the Polish General Staff that Poland was approaching the institution of the state of Martial Law. Source indicated that this could happen as early as next week. If the radicals in the Solidarnosc movement decide on a confrontation, the Polish leadership will declare a state of Martial Law. If the implementation of Martial Law is unsuccessful, the question raised in the Polish General Staff was whether they would receive help [presumably from the Soviets].

3. On the 13th of September <sup>SUNDAY</sup> there will be an extraordinary meeting of the Military Council of the Ministry of National Defense at which the commanders of the military districts and

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and branches of the Polish Armed Forces will present their positions and report on the state of readiness of the troops. On *MONDAY* the 14th of September the National Defense Committee will meet in order to evaluate the state of national preparedness. In the very near future [date unspecified], military personnel on leave will be recalled. Should Martial Law be declared, the following military units are envisioned for operations in Warsaw: The 17th Mechanized Regiment of the 4th Mechanized Division [the 4th Mechanized Division is located in Krosno Odrzanskie], the 55th Mechanized Regiment of the 16th Armored Division [the 16th Armored Division is located in Elblag], the 1st Mechanized Regiment of the 1st Mechanized Division [the 1st Mechanized Division is located in Warsaw]. In addition, the reconnaissance elements of these divisions will be brought up to full strength. At Rynia and Bialobrzegi, centers for receiving families of high-ranking officers are being prepared in order to preclude their use as "hostages".

Clair George

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