

April 5, 1982

Intelligence Information Cable, 'The Polish National Defense Committee'

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Summary:

Report outlines the various components of the National Defense Committee (KOK) including its Secretariat, leadership, and possible consequences.

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<u>C</u> R E T

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		FIRDB-312/00640-82
REPORT CLASS		
COUNTRY	Poland	
SUBJECT	The Polish National Defense Committee	
	(DOI: 1981)	
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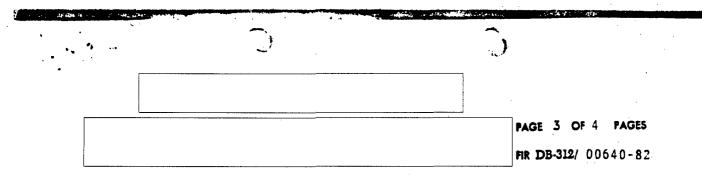
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Defense (who is also a vice-minister of defense in the Ministry of National Defense, currently General Tadeusz Tuczapski) is ex-officio the Secretary of the KOK.

2. The working organ of the KOK is its Secretariat, numbering 30-35 people, currently headed by General Mieczyslaw Debicki. The Secretariat, which has its own office away from the Ministry of National Defense, plans all meetings, prepares all minutes, and prepares and disseminates all decisions of the KOK. The hub of the Secretariat is a legal element, headed by Colonel (fnu) Malicki, a lawyer with a staff of 6-7 lawyers.

3. Some initiative in KOK matters is taken by the Secretariat, but the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces plays the main role in the affairs of the KOK. The General Staff initiates, plans, and supervises all national defense matters in Poland. All other organs represented in the KOK are there only to add prestige, and give the body its "collegial" character. They add legitimacy to the proceedings and are responsible for seeing that KOK resolutions are carried out. Virtually all resolutions of the KOK are formulated in the General Staff, with the exception of marginal matters that could be presented by other members.

The first secretary of the Polish United Workers 4. Party is not a member of the KOK, and the party has no official role in it. This arrangement puts Poland out of step with the Communist system as established in other Pact countries, including the Soviet Union, and the Poles have for a number of years been considering ways to correct it to make the party first secretary the chairman of the KOK. One plan was to tie the appointment to a related structural change that has been under consideration for some time, which would merge the offices and functions of the party first secretary and the national president. Comment: The national president, as chairman of the Louncil of State, is the official head of state, currently a largely ceremonial position.) This effort would require a change in the Polish constitution, however, and has been continually eclipsed in recent years by more pressing problems, although it has never been totally dropped. The interim solution adopted by the Poles had the KOK, in a move of questionable legality, pass a resolution establishing the power and authority of the party as superior to the KOK, thus granting the party the key role in directing matters of national security and giving the party first secretary a virtual veto over KOK decisions.

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