

Police stop sit-in strike in Poland

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Independent Polish workers demanded Monday that a deputy premier be sent to talks in a town where police broke up a workers' sit-in over the weekend. Eviction of the trade unionists from an administration building was the first known use of police force against protesters since labor unrest flared here last summer.

The independent union Solidarity wants Deputy Premier Stanislaw Mach to begin the talks in the southern Polish town Nowy Sacz by Thursday, according to a union spokesman reached by telephone. The union also wants representatives of the Interior Ministry to explain the decision to evict the protesters, he said.

A Solidarity delegation made the demand at a meeting with the town mayor.

Police on Sunday removed some 46 protesting workers from a building they had occupied since Friday. The official PAP news agency said the workers left peacefully and there was no violence. Warsaw Radio said the workers were "forcibly removed." Solidarity confirmed the action was peaceful.

The sit-in began over a number of local demands and was the latest in a series of similar protests which have erupted in widely scattered parts of the country.

Mieczyslaw Jagielski, another of Poland's six deputy premiers, went to Moscow at the head of a delegation to a meeting of Comecon, the Soviet bloc economic community. No details were available, but he was believed likely to talk with Soviet officials about Poland's shaky economy and labor unrest.

On Saturday, Solidarity, the nation's largest independent union, staged a nationwide one-day work stoppage to demand a five-day, 40-hour workweek in the first widespread protest action this year.

On the eve of that protest the Soviet Union issued its harshest attack to date on the labor unrest here, blaming "counter-revolutionaries," an extremely severe charge in Soviet-bloc terminology and the same one used Saturday by Polish party leader Stanislaw Kania against private farmers seeking to form an independent union of their own.

U.S. intelligence reports of Soviet and East bloc troops at Poland's borders have added to Western fears that if the labor unrest here continues Moscow will intervene as it did in Czechoslovakia in 1968 during a period of liberalization.

Solidarity, the first recognized independent union in the Soviet bloc, was formed as a result of last summer's crippling strikes, which paralyzed the already hard-pressed economy. The strikes brought about the fall of party leader Edward Gierek, a number of liberalizing reforms and increased access to the communications media for the Roman Catholic Church.

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