

Solidarity accedes

Union accepts strike halt

GDANSK, Poland (AP) — The Solidarity leadership voted Tuesday night to accept independent union chief Lech Walesa's decision to call off a general strike, despite dissatisfaction with the agreement Walesa worked out with the government.

Soviet-led land, sea and air military exercises were reported continuing in and around Poland, and Polish officials mounted urgent missions to the West for economic aid.

The vote agreeing to call off the strike was 25-4, but there were many abstentions among the national coordinating commission membership of 55. Walesa's agreement with the government had forestalled a nationwide strike that was to begin Tuesday.

Debate resumed after the vote on the terms of the agreement with the government. Warsaw Radio said the commission was discussing whether to remain on strike alert.

In Washington, Pentagon analysts said about 18 Soviet and East-bloc military divisions remained in a high state of readiness in and around Poland.

The Solidarity leadership met in the huge Lenin shipyard here to decide whether to ratify Monday's decision calling off the general strike in return for a government promise to punish those responsible for a beating of union members in Bydgoszcz 12 days ago.

Sources inside the closed meeting said during a break that a majority on the commission believed Walesa gave up too easily on other demands, such as registration of an independent farmers' union.

A source said one of the unionists beaten in Bydgoszcz, Solidarity leader Jan Rulewski, sent a message to the meeting from his hospital bed calling Walesa's deal a "disgrace to the union."

A top Solidarity leader, Bogdan Lis, had said during the break that the commission might want to reopen negotiations with the government to change the agreement, but would not call an immediate strike.

In pursuit of international aid, Vice Premier Mieczyslaw Jagielski met with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing in Paris in talks that he described as "very interesting and fruitful."

He is seeking both immediate and long term assistance for an economy plagued by shortages.

a \$23 billion foreign debt and on-and-off labor troubles.

NATO sources said the Soviet bloc military exercises had ended, but the official East German news agency ADN reported "Soyuz 81" continued for the 12th day.

The Gdansk meeting of Solidarity's national coordinating commission was chaired by Walesa, who reached the deal

with a government team headed by Deputy Premier Mieczyslaw Rakowski.

Interviewed on Polish radio, Walesa said "we cannot go on destroying each other, on and on. After all we are destroying ourselves. That is why we must force the government to sit at the table with us and not to make us use this heaviest weapon."

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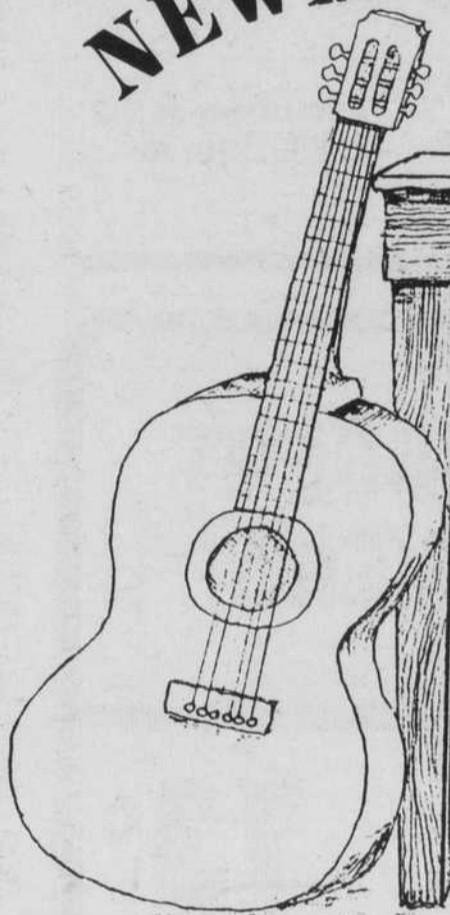
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