

inter/national news

From Associated Press reports

Polish government imposes martial law

WARSAW, Poland

Poland's new martial law regime flew Solidarity leader Lech Walesa to Warsaw on Sunday for talks aimed at heading off a nationwide strike urged by union militants defying proclamations of a state of emergency.

Martial rule was imposed early Sunday after Solidarity called for a nationwide vote on whether to retain communism. Authorities were reported to have interned an estimated 1,000 people around the country.

The new military regime announced that all but religious meetings were banned, the right to strike or protest suspended, sale of gasoline prohibited and unofficial distribution of information outlawed. All normal communications in the country were cut, and the nation's borders were sealed.

Troops and armored personnel carriers took up key positions around Warsaw.

Archbishop Jozef Glemp, the Roman Catholic primate of Poland, pleaded with the nation in a broadcast sermon to remain peaceful and not "give your lives away."

The state-run news media reported about 200 demonstrators at the Solidarity building in the capital were dispersed with fire hoses. It was the only

reported street agitation in the otherwise apparently calm city.

Government spokesman Jerzy Urban told foreign reporters that Walesa was "being treated with all due respect. He is considered the head of Solidarity and Solidarity's activities have only been suspended." Officials said Walesa was flown to Warsaw from Gdansk hours after martial law was declared early Sunday.

Late Sunday there was no report of the outcome of the talks with Walesa. Warsaw Radio reported that Cabinet members met to evaluate the situation. The broadcast said "principles for work of the government have been defined as well as the most urgent tasks resulting from the present, extraordinary situation."

The East German news agency ADN quoted Urban as saying at the news conference that Walesa was among the Solidarity leaders interned, but later withdrew its report.

In Washington, Pres. Reagan said the United States had made it clear "how seriously we would view any interference in Poland" by the Soviet Union.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig announced in Brussels, Belgium, that he was canceling a Middle East trip to return to Washington on Monday and keep watch on Polish developments.

The State Department in Washington held separate talks with Soviet and Polish diplomats.

Western nations express concern

LONDON

Western governments Sunday expressed deep concern at the declaration of martial law in Poland, and protesters thronged outside Polish embassies in several capital cities.

Western labor leaders demanded the immediate release of detained officials and supporters of Poland's independent trade union, Solidarity.

U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, speaking as he left London for home after a four-day visit, expressed fears "that the beginning of freedom in Poland may be stamped out again."

The Soviet news agency Tass blamed developments on "extremist actions of Solidarity leaders" and said Poland's Communist leaders acted in response to "anarchy facing the country."

Polish-born Pope John Paul II urged prayers for peace in his native land, recalling the horrors it experienced in World War II.

"The events of the last few hours make it necessary from me once again to address the cause of our country so that you may pray for it," he said in Polish at the end of Sunday noon blessing before 30,000 people in the Vatican's St. Peter's Square.

The 70-million-member Inter-

national Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the world's largest non-Communist trade group, said it was "shocked," particularly at the occupation of Solidarity headquarters and the arrest of some leaders.

"The ICFTU... urges their immediate release," the federation said in a statement at its Brussels headquarters.

Italy's Communist Party, the largest in the West, said the martial law declaration "alarms us deeply... Every aspect of the way the (Polish) government has chosen to solve a political problem must be condemned."

In London, nearly 1,000 demonstrators, including two British legislators and Poles wearing Solidarity badges and singing hymns, gathered in an emotional demonstration outside the securely locked Polish Embassy in the capital's West End.

There were similar demonstrations at or near the Polish embassies in Vienna, Oslo, Brussels, Paris and Rome, and in Athens 1,000 left-wing protesters marched to the Parliament building.

In New York, 250 people gathered in front of the Polish consulate, chanting "Long Live Lech Walesa!" and "Freedom for Poland!"

As darkness fell in Paris, 3,000-4,000 people led by Trotskyites and members of other splinter communist organizations milled on the Invalides Esplanade near the Polish Embassy.

Polish-Americans voice despair

Polish-Americans worried about relatives, friends and the fate of their motherland expressed despair and dismay Sunday after the Polish government's sudden crackdown on the independent labor union Solidarity.

"I have lost all hope for a better Poland," said Jan Krason in Denver. The geologist, who came to this country 12 years ago, has two brothers and four sisters in Poland.

Though many said the imposition of martial law Saturday night was not a surprise, workers, intellectuals, scholars, immigrants and clergyman joined in the chorus of protest.

"I'm afraid for the lives of thousands of Solidarity leaders in Poland and for the fate of millions," said Irene Lasote, who said she was in Poland during student demonstrations in 1968.

Most communications with the eastern European nation were cut, adding to the uncertainty. Some Polish-American activists voiced fears of a civil war reminiscent of the 1956 uprising in Hungary if Lech Walesa, the head of Solidarity, were arrested by Polish police.

"They would resist with every possible means and demand release of Walesa," said Stefan Harvey in Los Angeles. He is president of the southern California chapter of the Polish-American Congress.

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