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POLAND

The free trade union Solidarity has again committed itself to a symbolic strike unless the Supreme Court delivers an acceptable verdict on the union's appeal of a lower court's unilateral revision of its charter.

The official Polish press agency yesterday reported that Solidarity's appeal has reached the court, which the regime has pledged will act by 10 November. The decision on whether to strike will come the day after the court's decision; if there is a strike, it will consist of a series of two-day work stoppages in Warsaw and Gdansk and then spread throughout the country in the course of a week.

Solidarity's decision represents a compromise among union leaders: it allows them to intensify their pressure on the regime without resorting to a general strike that would further damage the economy and that might provoke a severe response from the regime. The temperance of the threatened action, however, may only encourage the regime to believe it is freer to deny Solidarity some of the rights and privileges it seeks.

Soviet and East European Attitudes

A strike--even a symbolic one--would heighten concern among Warsaw's allies about the ultimate outcome of Poland's domestic crisis. East Germany and Czechoslovakia already are maintaining a constant flow of inflammatory commentary. The East German party daily yesterday reprinted a Czechoslovak commentary from the weekend that accused the Polish unions of being linked with anti-Communists and of threatening the Warsaw government.

The Soviet media have for the first time referred to events in Hungary in 1956 and in Czechoslovakia in 1968 in connection with current developments in Poland. In a TASS item on Saturday and a Moscow radio broadcast to Poland on Monday, the Soviets condemned the alleged role of Radio Free Europe and other Western broadcasts for aggravating the Hungarian and Czechoslovak crises and claimed that their "role" in Polish events is "equally

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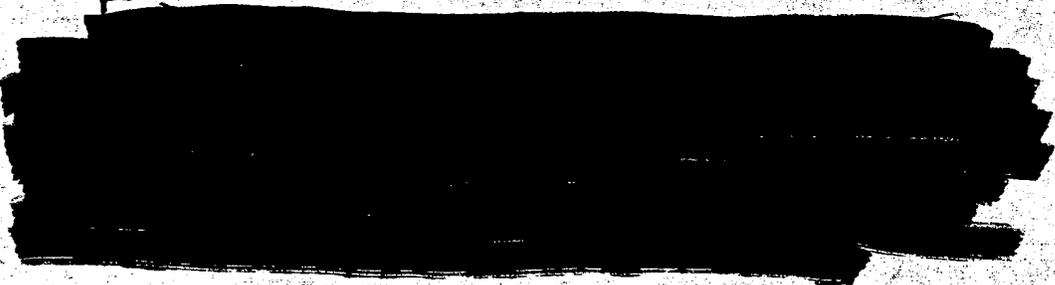
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ominous." Although Moscow's statements support the Kania regime's own media campaign against alleged Western interference in Polish affairs, they also seem designed to deliver an implicit warning to the Polish people.

Assistance to the Unions

Solidarity apparently is receiving at least some modest assistance, such as printing presses and funds, from Western trade unions. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions is playing a coordinating role, maintaining communications with Polish union leaders and passing along requests to those of its affiliates that wish to furnish funds and equipment.



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