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POLAND

Although the regime has stressed that it wants to cooperate with the union Solidarity, workers continue to insist on wage increases, demand that they play a major role in formulating regulations on job-related matters, and hold out the threat of strikes.

Railway workers in Gdansk have started another protest action and have threatened an all-out strike on Monday unless the Transport Ministry settles a wage dispute. A deputy prime minister said yesterday that he would begin negotiations immediately to head off the strike but stated the government is very "disappointed" that Solidarity continues to use strike threats in order to obtain its demands.

Textile workers in Lodz have insisted that government representatives come to that city to negotiate a wage settlement, and at least some workers have talked of a strike. Representatives from Solidarity have criticized a draft on work regulations prepared by a ministry and demanded that more union delegates be included on the commission that is drafting the regulations.

Criticism of Kania

Workers and party members in Gdansk have also strongly criticized party leader Kania's appointment of Stanislaw Kociolek as provincial committee secretary in Warsaw. Kociolek once was party leader in Gdansk, and many people believe that his actions led to the deaths of Polish strikers in 1970.

[REDACTED] in Gdansk [REDACTED] many party members believe Kociolek's appointment indicated that Kania had displayed a lack of judgment, insensitivity to the feelings of the people on the Baltic coast, and a lack of concern for reviving the party. [REDACTED] the rank-and-file and middle-level party members are discouraged by the many changes in Poland [REDACTED] the best evidence we have received that Kania is being personally criticized. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Solidarity may also demand that Kociolek be dismissed from his new post. The

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union already has forced the regime to dismiss some local leaders who were appointed under former party leader Gierak, but it has not yet challenged Kania concerning any of his appointees. If it does, another major political battle might result.

Gestures by the Regime

The government yesterday appointed a Roman Catholic as a deputy premier. Jerzy Ozdowski, an economist who is a member of the independent Catholic group of parliamentary deputies and has close ties with the Church hierarchy, became the only Catholic to have such a high-ranking government position in Poland--or anywhere in Eastern Europe. It is not clear whether the Church pushed for Ozdowski's appointment or the government took the initiative. The regime has again indicated, however, that it realizes it must seek support from the Church to overcome the present crisis.

Soviet Commentary

TASS has reported Deputy Premier Jagielski's remarks to the Polish parliament on Thursday that, while the Polish party is willing to cooperate with other loyal elements in Poland, it intends to wage a "resolute political struggle" against hostile forces there. The Soviet news agency also quoted Jagielski as insisting that Solidarity officials must not question public ownership of the means of production, the leading role of the party, or Poland's ties with the Warsaw Pact if the new trade union organization is to play a positive role in the country's future.

The TASS dispatch noted that some individual unions in the new trade union organization have been making "ill-considered and unrealistic demands," but then tacitly acknowledged that the free trade unions are taking part in the drafting of a new law on trade unions and are participating in the work of a Polish commission dealing with questions in the area of economic reform. Although this implicit acceptance of the new union stands as the most positive Soviet comment on the subject since the Polish Supreme Court's decision on 10 November, Moscow's treatment of Jagielski's remarks also lays out some clear limits of Soviet tolerance.

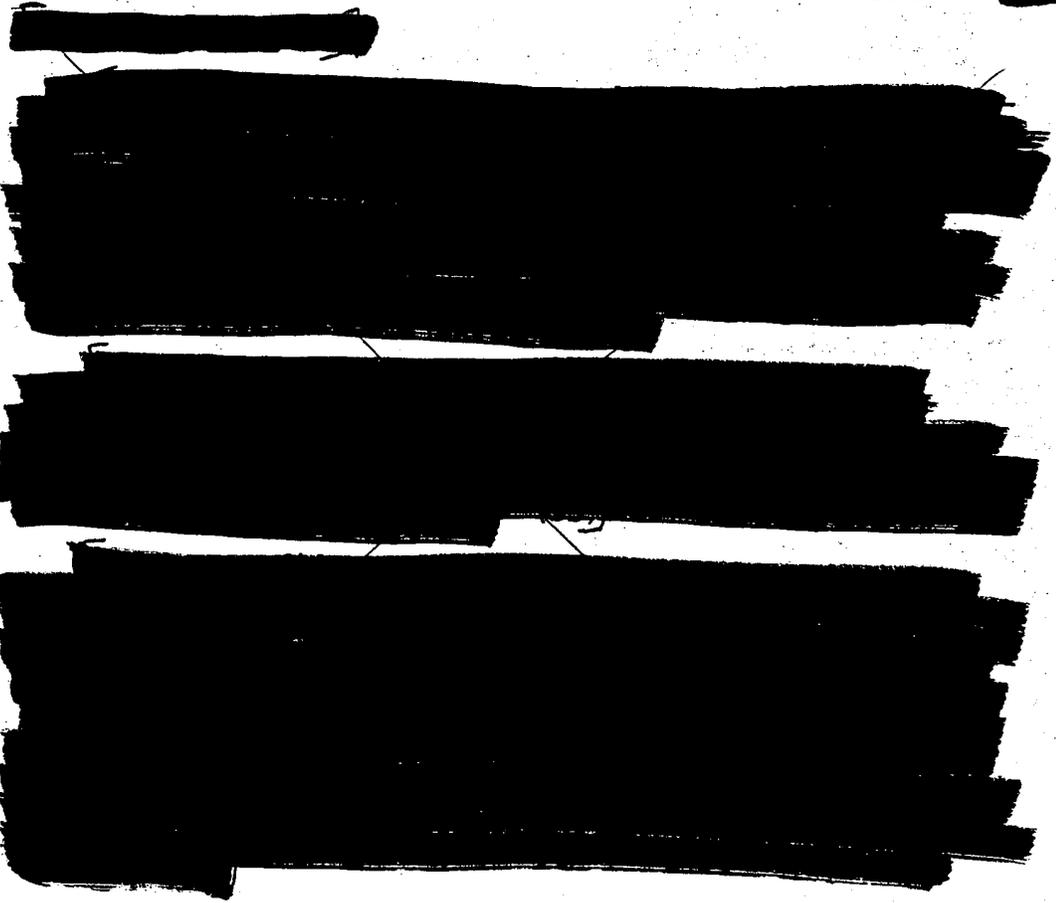
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East German Comments

East German media have cited Polish press items to attack union leader Lech Walesa for the past two days, accusing him of links with "antisocialist" Polish dissidents and Italian neofascists. The East Germans are eager to push the political and ideological offensive against "counterrevolutionary forces" in Poland and hope to discredit Walesa as a step toward undermining Solidarity. East Berlin is probably as disturbed as the Polish regime by the fact that Walesa continues to meet with dissident Jacek Kuron of the Committee for Workers' Self-Defense.



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