

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Violent Incident

A clash yesterday between police and demonstrating farmers in the provincial capital, Bydgoszcz, has raised new tensions in Poland.

According to press reports, 200 police roughly evicted 25 farmers and local union members from a government building after they refused to leave a meeting with local officials. Several union members were taken to hospitals, and the local Solidarity leader reportedly was hospitalized with head injuries. This is the first incident involving apparently serious personal injuries since the founding of Solidarity last August.

Solidarity leader Walesa went to Bydgoszcz to try to help calm the situation. The union's national leadership asked all chapters "to keep absolute calm" until the incident has been investigated. At the same time, all Solidarity chapters have gone on strike alert.

Local officials reportedly took the initiative to use the police.

[Redacted]

Excessively rough treatment of the farmers by the police may reflect pent-up resentment within police ranks over recent attacks on their privileges.

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