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POLAND

The leadership of the new union Solidarity has agreed to hold the next round of negotiations with the regime on Friday in Warsaw, but it reportedly has hinted that if the talks are not successful, a national strike will be set for 12 November.

In its latest contacts with Solidarity, the regime seemed intent on reasserting its authority by establishing the conditions for future talks. The leadership probably felt that it would be a sign of weakness if, as Solidarity originally demanded, Prime Minister Pinkowski were forced to go to Gdansk. While accepting the regime's proposal, the Solidarity leadership apparently felt it must keep up the pressure on the government with new threats of strikes if it is to make further progress toward realizing its demands.

Solidarity reportedly has raised 11 issues that it wants discussed. Several focus on the demand that the regime register the new union without the additions to its charter made by the Warsaw court last Friday. Others deal with Solidarity's demands that it have immediate access to the media, the right to publish its own newspapers, and permission to bring into the country printing presses given to Solidarity by Western trade unions.

East German Reaction

East Germany yesterday announced the "temporary" end of visa-free travel to and from Poland. Beginning tomorrow, East Germans and Poles will be able to make trips across the border only after producing officially certified invitations from friends or relatives. The East Germans hope that many Poles will defer visits rather than go through what probably will be a long bureaucratic process.

Polish workers in East Germany apparently will not be directly affected by the new regulation, but the East Germans have again moved to prevent Poles from establishing an independent trade union there. The East Germans also have reacted with

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suspicion to a request from some Polish workers that they be permitted to return to Poland to celebrate a Catholic holy day on Saturday. The East Germans have speculated that these workers wish to meet with Lech Walesa and that he is planning to cause "trouble" again.

Border Rail Traffic

The international rail crossing at Brest on the Polish-Soviet border was reopened to freight traffic on 20 October

The Soviet closure of Brest--the only rail crossing along the border open to freight traffic from West European countries--was announced on 9 October and reported to be in force through 20 October. The closure did not affect passenger traffic, and most other crossing points along the Polish-Soviet frontier are reported to have remained open.

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