Solidarity calls temporary halt to strikes, protests

WARSAW, Poland (AP)— Underground Solidarity leaders called yesterday for a temporary halt to strikes and street demonstrations. But they threatened a general strike if Polish authorities do not respond by freeing interned union activists or granting them the status of political prisoners.

Warsaw was quiet yesterday, the day marking eight months of martial law. There were no reports of strikes or protests elsewhere in the country. On May 13 and June 13, protests and riots broke out as the sixth and seventh months under martial law passed.

THE CALL for a moratorium on strikes and protests until July 31 was issued by four leaders of Solidarity who managed to avoid capture last Dec. 13 and have since operated underground as the "temporary national coordinating committee" of the suspended union.

In two separate letters, the four activists said they had three goals in calling for the moratorium.

They said they wanted to demonstrate "the strength, unity, discipline, organizational efficiency and resistance to repression" of the union.

THEY SAID they also wanted to persuade the authorities to grant either political prisoner status or an amnesty to the several thousand activists interned in December or arrested and sentenced to jail since then for violating martial law.

Finally, they said they hoped that the moratorium would "contribute to the worthy welcome to Pope John Paul II in our country." Polish Roman Catholic Church leaders are currently negotiating with the government about a possible visit by the pope to his native land in August.

Favorable action by the authorities, they said, might extend the moratorium for a longer time. "But if the authorities, for various reasons, reject our initiative of agreement, the union will be forced to reach for other means of pressure again, including a general strike."

"WE WILL never give up fighting for returning to society its legal rights," they added. The Solidarity leaders signing the letters were Bogdan Lis of Gdansk, Wladyslaw Hardek of Krakow, Zbigniew Bujak of Warsaw, and Wladyslaw Frasuniuk of Wroclaw.

The publication of the appeal coincided with the second consecutive attack against Polish dissidents in the hard-line army daily, Zolnierz Wolnosci.

The paper charged that "the opposition is heating up anti-state moods by organizing all kinds of shows. "There are still people in Poland who participate in this game. The stimulation of internal unrest is coordinated with outside pressure on Poland," it said.

Shultz endorses stronger ties with Arab world

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with the White House.

"The foreign policy we talk about is the president's foreign policy," Shultz said. "My job is to help him formulate his foreign policy, along with others . . . He's the boss."

Not surprisingly, Shultz supported all of the administration's foreign policy actions to date, including the economic sanctions against the Soviet Union and Poland, the decision to sell defensive weapons to Taiwan and the opposition to a nuclear freeze.

Shultz has been president of Bechtel Group, Inc., a major construction firm with interests in Saudi Arabia, and sought to assure the committee this would have no bearing on his policies toward the Middle East. He didn't respond to a request from Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.) that he pledge not to return to Bechtel after government service.

HE DID say, however, he would sell all of his Bechtel-related investments and promised to remove himself from making decisions in any matters involving Bechtel.

Shultz was secretary of the treasury, during the Nixon administration.

IN ANSWER to a question, he restated the U.S. pledge to Israel not to negotiate directly with the PLO unless the Palestinian group recognizes Israel's right to exist.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, surrounded by an overwhelming Israeli force, is seeking United States recognition for his Palestine Liberation Organization as his price for leving Lebanon, Lebanese and Palestinian sources said yesterday.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, said Arafat would reverse his current refusal to abandon Beirut by sea, escorted by the U.S. 6th Fleet, if the United States recognized the PLO.

"WE ARE fighting for that, to force the United States to recognize us," said Hani al-Hassan, Arafat's political adviser. "I am sure that if there were direct talks between the PLO and American through U.S. pesidential envoy Philip Habib it would be a very important step for the PLO and the PLO would be ready to be more flexible and to rethink a lot of things."

Schultz said the Lebanese government apparently has sent an official request to Washington for U.S. troops to help evacuate PLO guerrillas from Beirut. The State Department's official spokesman, Dean Fischer, said letter that was not yet the case.

Schultz said he hopes U.S. troops, if used, could do the job in 30 days but there is still the problem of finding another country willing to give the guerrillas a home.

In Brief

Compiled from Associated Press and United Press International reports

Balanced budget amendment will pass, O'Neill predicts

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Thomas O'Neill (D-Mass.), predicted yesterday a proposed constitutional amendment requiring a balanced federal budget will pass congress this election year, but he called it "a cowardly way out."

O'Neill made his prediction to reporters as the Republican-controlled Senate began a second day of debate on the amendment. A bipartisan group of senators was working on a way to kill the measure.

Several senators were considering amendments, but most oppostion seemed to be rallying behind a proposal by Sens. Charles Mathias, (R-Md.), and Max Baucus, (D-Mont.), that would avoid amending the Constitution and instead rely on a simple statute requiring a balanced budget.

Iran reports new attack on Iraq

TORONTO— Iran officially announced early today that its troops had begun a military operation "to liberate Iraq," the Canadian Press news agency reported from Iran.

A communique of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards and the joint staffr command of the Iranian army, said the objectives of the operation, codenamed Ramadan, were "to perfect the defence of the Islamic lands (Iran), to prevent further Iraqi and other U.S. lackeys' aggression, and to keep Iraqi fire at a distance from cities of the Islamic homeland (Iran)."

Vatican banks to undergo examination

VATICAN CITY— The Holy See took the highly unusual step yesterday of calling in three international experts to examine the Vatican bank's dealings with an Italian bank that is the center of a major financial scandal.

The action was taken apparently to blunt harsh criticism from the Italian government and press of Vatican involvement with Banco Ambrosiano, Italy's largest private bank.

It follows the mysterious death of the Banco Ambrosiano president, Roberto Calvi, and allegations that he persuaded the Vatican bank to guarantee $1.4 billion in questionable loans—for which the Vatican may be held responsible.

The Vatican has never revealed the assets of its bank, one of three Vatican financial institutions, and it has never before publicly announced calling in outside experts to study the bank.

Stay of Haitians' release denied

ATLANTA— A federal appeals court yesterday denied the government's request to stay an order requiring the release of 1,800 Haitian refugees held in immigration detention camps in six states.

A three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals also said oral arguments in the government's appeal of the lower court ruling would be held at the earliest possible date.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service had said last week that unless the government won its stay, some of the Haitians might start being released within a few days.

The court action came after a daylong hearing at which a top government lawyer argued that release of the Haitians would damage irreparably the United States' ability to control its borders.

But a Miami attorney who represents the Haitians disagreed, saying there is "no evidence whatsoever" that the nation would be damaged if the Haitians are paroled.

The government asked the federal appeals court to stay a June order by U.S. District Judge Eugene Spellman of Miami, who instructed the government to release the Haitians from camps in six states. Associate Attorney General Rudolph Guiliani said a stay would allow the attorney general's office to implement a plan for paroling the Haitians.

Air crash investigation continues

KENNER, La.— Investigators seeking the cause of the nation's second-worst air disaster studied statements yesterday from dozens of witnesses, including a ham radio operator who said she heard the pilot radio a complaint about sudden turbulence.

National Transportation Safety Board officials said they were skeptical of the woman's account because no such conversation was found on tape recordings made by the control tower at New Orleans International Airport.

But board spokesman Brad Dunbar said the woman and others were being interviewed to corroborate information investigators hope to get from two "black boxes" recovered from the wreckage of Friday's crash of Pan Am Flight 759. All 145 people aboard the Boeing 727 were killed, along with eight people on the ground.

In Los Angeles, meanwhile, the first lawsuit stemming from the crash was filed in federal court. The suit, asking $70 million, was filed by Elaine and Arthur Cunnings of Howell, Mich., who lost two daughters and three grandchildren in the crash. The daughters were on their way to their brother's funeral in California.