

POLISH WORKERS CALL OFF STRIKE

Threat of Poznan Walkout Withdrawn to Aid Gomulka —Sporadic Disorders Go On

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WARSAW, Dec. 13—The metalworkers of Poznan today withdrew their threat to strike.

They were promised in return that a resolution calling for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary would be brought directly to the attention of Wladyslaw Gomulka, Poland's Communist leader.

Originally the workers had demanded that the resolution be publicized in the press and over the radio. Their statement said that if the situation in Hungary required the presence of troops, these should be drawn from all countries in the Warsaw Pact, the Soviet bloc's military alliance.

Well aware of the explosive atmosphere in the country, Poznan Communist officials went to the workers today to explain the situation and tell them that if they wanted to help M. Gomulka, they should give up any idea of striking and should maintain order.

The appeal, based on M. Gomulka's continuing popularity, had its effect. But elsewhere in Poland, according to reports reaching Warsaw, sporadic demonstrations and incidents continued to take place.

There was another incident last night in Stettin (Szczecin), scene of a six-hour riot Monday night in which the Soviet consulate was damaged and looted. Since then, militiamen of the port city have been equipped with rubber truncheons and they did not hesitate to use them last night.

The Polish press reported that "gangs of hooligans" attempted to block the streets and "to start a new brawl." They were dispersed quickly by the police.

Other reports to Warsaw told of a silent march in the Silesian coal mining town of Gliwice Tuesday in support of the Hungarian workers, and of demonstrations in the same town Wednesday in which militiamen were involved. No details of the demonstrations were available.

Other incidents were said to have occurred during the last two days at Sopot on the Baltic coast, Zakopane in southern Poland and Lipno, a small town in Warsaw Province.

Sztandar Mlodych, a Warsaw youth newspaper, reported today that about half of the eighty-eight persons arrested after Monday night's riots in Stettin had been released. These were young persons between the ages of 15 and 19. Those still held face charges under which they may be imprisoned for from six months to five years.

Meanwhile, a prominent Polish newspaper editor has called for the "rehabilitation" of Henryk Ehrlich and Wiktor Alter, who were executed on Stalin's orders fifteen years ago.

M. Ehrlich and M. Alter were leaders of the Polish section of the Jewish Bund, an international Socialist organization whose strength was concentrated in Poland and in New York.

Writing in *Zycie Warszawy*, Stefan Arski said it was "high time * * * their names [were] cleansed from the dirt of false accusation."

The disappearance of M. Ehrlich and M. Alter in Kuibyshev, in the Soviet Union, in December, 1941, caused an outcry in Socialist and labor circles throughout the world. Not until February, 1943, however, did the Soviet Union disclose the fate of the two men.

In response to inquiries from William Green, then president of the American Federation of Labor, the Soviet Embassy in Washington said that M. Ehrlich and M. Alter had been sentenced and executed for hostile activities against the Soviet Union.

M. Arski said "there is no doubt whatever" that M. Ehrlich and M. Alter had been victims of the "system of provocation and terror we now call Beriaism" [a reference to the excesses of Lavrenti P. Beria, executed former head of the Soviet secret police]. An "elementary feeling of justice" and the "interest of the international workers' movement" demands their rehabilitation, M. Arski added.