

X/9 POLAND - STRIKE AT WARSAW FACTORY

F-59

Munich, August 27 (CNR)... The following is a translation of a Polish BD program on a strike at a Warsaw factory:

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As we have just learned, a strike broke out in the first few days of July at the Rose Luxemburg factory in Warsaw. Poor working conditions in the mechanical section were the cause of the strike. In the halls, which are entirely unsuitable for work, the temperature would reach 40 degrees C. during hot Summer days. There was inadequate ventilation in these halls, the windows could not be opened, the heat was unbearable and clouds of metallic dust floated in the air. The density of these dust clouds exceeded 8 times the permissible norm. The conditions were harmful to health and at the same time made it impossible for the workers to perform jobs on grinding-machines which require a great deal of precision and painstaking attention.

And so, the workers and foremen of the section submitted to the Board of this factory a written petition demanding improvement in the ventilation installations. The petition was signed by several dozen people.

The management ignored this appeal on the part of the

workers and confined itself to merely stating that credits for an improvement of working conditions were ventilation and lighting are concerned have been taken into consideration in the long-term plans. But it will not be possible to make the investments in this field until 1968, that is in four years' time.

Meanwhile, working conditions became unbearable in the July heat.

Despite protests to the Works' Council and the Party Factory Committee none of the Union and Party leaders paid any attention to this matter.

Consequently, the workers decided to organize a strike early in July.

After coming to the factory and declaring that conditions were unbearable, the morning shift simply did not start working. The workers and the foremen sat down in front of their machines, and began a sit-down strike. When the management of the works found out about the strike it began to summon one by one various employees of the striking section to the director's office. However none of these reacted to the summons and remained at their machines. Consequently, representatives of management went to the section and tried to talk to the workers. The workers, however, observed solidarity and silence, refusing to reply to any questions. Subsequently, representatives of the Party's Municipal Committee drove up to the Rose Luxemburg factory but they, too, failed to induce the obstinately silent workers to commence work.

A whole day passed without any work being done.

The next day the workers did begin to work but at a reduced rate, so that their productivity did not exceed 10% of the normal level.

Finally, after three days of this kind of demonstration the management installed a larger number of ventilators and then work returned to normal.

However, the management set up a commission for the purpose of punishing the organizers of the strike. The commission found "the culprits" and as a result a great many people were punished. Thus, 12 workers and 1 foreman were discharged, after being branded as "trouble-makers" and enemies of People's Poland. About 50 workers were deprived of their quarterly premiums, many others received sharp reprimands. Moreover, nearly the entire crew of the section was changed, and workers of the mechanical section were transferred to other units. The Works' Council ~~did not~~ ignored the whole of this matter and maintained complete



silence and passivity.

In the course of the strike other sections expressed solidarity with its participants, reducing the rate of their work. The factory authorities applied disciplinary measures here and there in the form of reprimands.

As a result of the strike work hygiene improved in part, but at the same time work discipline was intensified and so was "ideological training".

Demonstrations have occurred in the past at the Rose Luxemburg factory but never before did any such action take place as at the beginning of July last.

The workers of the Rose Luxemburg factory rightly demanded an improvement of working conditions. And yet, they were punished for this and reprisals were applied. There is no need to comment on these facts except that we should point out that this is the way working people who clamour for their rights are treated in People's Poland. If you are dissatisfied - get out! That is the attitude of the allegedly "People's " authority, an authority that pretends to act in the name of the working class.

And all this is happening at a time when, in Czechoslovakia, the workers of a repair works in Bratislava who went on strike to support their claims were not only left unpunished but their just demands were met.

Note: The Rose Luxemburg factory in Warsaw manufactures radio tubes and receivers.