

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

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POLAND: Talks on Media Access

Solidarity and the government anticipate tough and lengthy negotiations over the union's demands for greater access to the media. [REDACTED]

Union leaders have already called the talks--slated to resume today--one of the most difficult "battles" since the strikes of last August. Solidarity probably will make numerous demands, including permanent control of its own television and radio programs. The talks may quickly focus, however, on the union's insistence on television coverage of its congress, which begins on 5 September. [REDACTED]

The government has refused to give Solidarity editorial control over a short daily report on the congress. The two sides could compromise by designating a team of mutually acceptable radio and television personnel to report on the event. [REDACTED]

If this issue is not resolved, the union is likely to go ahead with a threatened six-day printers' strike. Solidarity members in Polish radio and TV have also threatened a limited strike in mid-September to be followed, if necessary, by a nationwide strike of the electronic media at the end of the month. [REDACTED]

Party leader Kania, in a speech delivered Tuesday and televised Wednesday, made clear that the government's reluctance to countenance any challenge to its hold on the media is as strong as ever. [REDACTED]

Meanwhile, some local disputes are also proving difficult to resolve. The Solidarity chapter in Radom, which staged a one-hour strike earlier this week, has still received no satisfaction of its grievances and has planned a series of progressively larger job actions beginning with a short regionwide strike tomorrow. Striking printers in Olsztyn have ignored the appeal of national union leaders to return to work and have broadened their protest by refusing to publish any local papers. [REDACTED]

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