

POLISH RIOT LASTS INTO SECOND DAY; 38 DEAD, 270 HURT

Armored Troops Take Poznan Radio Station, Stronghold of the Demonstrators

ARRESTS ARE NUMEROUS

British Eyewitnesses Tell of a Night of Fighting, With Planes Dropping Flares

Dispatch of The Times, London.

POZNAN, Poland, June 29— Polish armored troops put an end this morning to disorders begun yesterday by armed demonstrators.

Thirty-eight persons were killed in the rioting, and 270, including soldiers and security policemen, were wounded.

[A dispatch from Prague to The New York Times said a Polish workman at the Poznan fair reported in a telephone conversation that fighting was still going on in the suburbs of the city early in the afternoon. However, it appeared doubtful to the caller in Prague that disorders were continuing in Poznan.]

According to British eyewitnesses, there was sporadic fighting in the city throughout last night, with fighter aircraft flying low dropping flares. Numerous arrests were made.

The last stronghold of the demonstrators, a radio station used for jamming foreign broadcasts, was reduced at 7 A. M.

Soviet-Built Tanks on Guard

By 10 A. M., a large and curious crowd was milling about in the debris between the station and the headquarters of the Polish security police. The station and the police building are nearly opposite each other in Kochanowki Street, where the main disturbances occurred.

T-34 Russian-built tanks were at vantage points around the buildings, with tommy-gunners standing about.

A trolley car was still lying on its side across the roadway. It had been overturned by the demonstrators to make barricade against the military. In the gutter were the remains of radio-jamming equipment destroyed by demonstrators and hurled out of the radio building.

According to eyewitness reports, the first troopers in a tank and infantrymen in a truck to arrive before security police headquarters yesterday while it was under attack fraternized with the demonstrators and joined in attacking the unpopular security police.

In the security police building, which the demonstrators had tried in vain to assault, many windows were broken, and the exterior was scarred and pock-marked by rifle and machine-gun

Continued on Page 3, Column 2

The New York Times

Published: June 30, 1956

Copyright © The New York Times

Scenes in Poznan as Poles Rioted Against Red Rule



Two men walk past public buildings outside which rioters had left burning heaps of paper



Associated Press Radiophotos

An automobile window frames a view of street in the big industrial city, where troops moved Thursday to quell uprising. Tanks were used against rioters, and many were killed.

POLISH RIOT LASTS INTO SECOND DAY

Continued From Page 1

fire. Ambulances were coming and going in front of the radio station, near which lamp posts had been knocked down and pavements had been obliterated by tank tracks.

The crowds this morning seemed neither especially perturbed by what had occurred nor intimidated. Friendliness was shown Western visitors attending the international trade fair, and there were many complaints of food and other shortages, especially of a breakdown in the supply of bread. This appears to have been one of the immediate causes of the disturbances.

The armed Polish troops standing about seemed to show embarrassment rather than hostility, and some were chatting and laughing with passersby.

Although most strikers were said in a communiqué to have returned to work, public transport was still virtually at a standstill today.

The fraternization yesterday by troops with demonstrators was witnessed by Robert Davies, labor councilor of the city of Cambridge and member of a delegation of British economists visiting Poland. He and three other members of the delegation, who corroborated his account, gained a close view of the fighting.

The commander of one of the leading tanks was said to have answered with strong affirmative gestures questions hurled at him by demonstrators whether he was a true Pole, and then to have turned his guns

against the security police building.

A wounded soldier with a bandage round his head was quoted as having shouted to the crowds as he was being taken away in an ambulance: "You have nothing to fear from us Polish soldiers. We are with you."

Later discipline was restored, and infantry and tanks engaged in dispersing and mopping up demonstrators. Persons in a crowd nearby, according to Mr. Davies, attributed this turn of events to the Soviet officers who, they said, were commanding the troops.

The disturbances began with a strike for higher wages at the Stalin engineering works in the city early yesterday morning. Strikers marched out of the gates and entered offices and buildings on their way to bring out others to join them.

According to Mr. Davies and others, demonstrators shouted the following slogans:

"We Want Freedom!" "Down With This Phony Communism!" "Down With the Ruskies!" "Down With the Soviet Occupation!" "We Demand Lower Prices and Higher Wages!" "Down With Dictatorship!"

The words "We Want Bread!" were scrawled on scraps of paper and handed around among the crowds as home-made leaflets.

About 10:30 A. M. yesterday, the demonstrators arrived before the castle at Poznan where a Communist party member attempted to address them. He was seized and beaten.

The demonstrators continued past the police headquarters while a voice from a loudspeaker van accompanying them shouted that they would not go back to work until their demands had been met.

Later, the demonstrators were joined by groups of workers armed with rifles, presumed to

have been taken from the Stalin engineering works. They attacked the jail, set it on fire and released the prisoners.

The disturbances then extended to the security police headquarters and the radio-jamming station, which was forced.

Mr. Davies saw young workers firing rifles at the security police building from close quarters. They seemed to be pleased with themselves, even posing for photographs while aiming at their targets.

A correspondent of The Times of London had no difficulty this morning in driving here from Warsaw.

The 300-kilometer stretch (about 185 miles) was picketed by military patrols and policemen at several points, but it was enough to show a trade-fair pass to be waved on. Nor was there any interference with movement inside Poznan.

However, all rail communications had been cut.