

Teacher strikes affect students across Pa.

By TED DUNCOMBE
Associated Press Writer

Teachers in one Pennsylvania school district went on strike yesterday but reached a settlement later in the day, while two other strikes began and another one ended at least temporarily. The developments left strikes in three districts affecting 378 teachers and 5,700 students across the Commonwealth. Strikes began yesterday morning in the Morrisville and Bristol Borough school districts in Bucks County and the Perkiomen Valley district in Montgomery County. Perkiomen Valley, which has 2,300 students and 159 teachers, announced a settlement yesterday afternoon, clearing the way for students to start classes Thursday. In the Union School District in Clarion County, teachers returned to work on a day-to-day basis, allowing classes to resume for 975 students. The 56 members of the Union Teachers Association had walked out Friday to protest the lack of progress toward replacing a contract that expired June 30, 1988. The second week of a strike idling 3,200 students began yesterday for the 192 members of the Big Spring Education Association in Cumberland County. Talks broke down between school board members and teachers yesterday

afternoon but were scheduled to resume Friday. In the two districts that went on strike yesterday, in addition to Perkiomen Valley, Morrisville has 1,150 students and 97 teachers and Bristol Borough has 1,350 students and 89 teachers. Jeffrey T. Sultanik, chief spokesman and negotiator for the Perkiomen Valley school board, said the tentative agreement was reached at 3:45 p.m. State mediator John Taylor imposed a blackout on details of the tentative settlement. William Westcott, Perkiomen Valley superintendent, earlier said the district had offered salary increases of 49.13 percent over four years. The teachers had sought a 48.84 percent increase over three years. No talks were scheduled in Morrisville or Bristol Borough, where teachers are seeking parity with salaries in surrounding Bucks County communities, said Don Atkiss, regional field director for the Pennsylvania State Education Association. A strike was likely today in the Phoenixville Area School District in Chester County, said Donald F. Morabito, assistant executive director of the PSEA's Philadelphia-area office. Talks continued yesterday but the sides were far apart, he said.



Teachers picket outside a Perkiomen Valley school in Graterford. Yesterday, the school was one of three eastern Pennsylvania districts shut down by strikes affecting 5,000 students on the first day of classes.

U.S. teacher strikes abound

By The Associated Press

Teachers in Sacramento, Calif., hit the picket line after contract talks broke down, boosting to more than 110,000 students around the nation who had no classes yesterday. In Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, teachers overwhelmingly ratified a new two-year contract with the school board, ending the threat of a strike set for yesterday. Walkouts in 12 districts in Illinois, Michigan, Montana, Ohio and Pennsylvania affected about 66,000 students as of Labor Day. Negotiators worked through the holiday to try to head off a strike in Sacramento, with 48,000 students the biggest district in the nation to have a walkout. Talks broke down about 3 a.m., and teachers were on strike by 7 a.m., officials said. The teachers want a 12.7 percent raise this year and are seeking class-size limitations and hiring deadlines for new teachers. In Michigan, teachers in the Jackson and Saginaw Township school districts were on strike yesterday.

Cosmonauts blast off after delay

By ANDREW KATELL
Associated Press Writer

BAIKONUR COSMODROME, U.S.S.R. — Two cosmonauts riding an advertising-embazoned rocket blasted off yesterday in search of a Soviet space success following a series of failures and bitter public disputes over costs. Interrupting its regular programming, official Radio Moscow reported "a Soviet space craft with a crew of two blasted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome." As the countdown progressed toward the launch time of 1:38 a.m. Moscow time Wednesday (5:38 p.m. EDT yesterday), soldiers had gathered around bonfires under crystal-clear skies to watch the launch. The blastoff was televised live on Cable News Network in the United States. The white Soyuz TM-8 capsule, resting on a gray booster rocket, sat in the middle of the Central Asian desert, with no other structures or space vehicles nearby. Correspondents watched the countdown from a viewing stand about a mile away. Mission commander Alexander S. Viktorenko and engineer Alexander A. Serebrov have a busy schedule of space construction and science laid out for them during their six-month mission aboard the now vacant orbital station Mir. But from the way their mission has been promoted, the public relations aspects are also important. Soviet officials have stressed repeatedly that such spaceflights can yield practical dividends sorely needed in a country now struggling with economic and environmental woes, and pounded home the theme in the final hours before the cosmonauts' liftoff.

To help their country's space program pay more of its own way, the Soviets have even allowed commercial advertising on the flight. One of three stages of the 150-foot booster rocket, painted orange, carried an ad for the Italian insurance company Generali. Others, for a Soviet electronics company and "New Dawn" perfume, were displayed on a side of the launch pad and in a room where the cosmonauts met reporters Monday night. The 20-ton Mir was designed to be manned permanently, and two cosmonauts ended a year on the space station in 1988. It was unexpectedly mothballed in April, however, because two add-on modules were not ready and the Kremlin did not want to keep a crew aboard while legislators and ordinary people were demanding more spending at home. "If we had colossal sums, we could have had the two modules on time, but we have limited resources like everyone else," Lt. Gen. Vladimir A. Shatalov, head of cosmonaut training, told *The Associated Press*. Deciding to leave the Mir unoccupied for only the second time since it was launched in February 1986 showed a new sensitivity to public opinion by the Soviet space bureaucracy, which generally has been more interested in matching or surpassing the U.S. space program. Gorbachev's political reforms have given space officials something in common with the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration: opposition from a skeptical public and from legislators trying to trim a budget deficit of 120 billion rubles (\$192 billion at the official exchange rate.) Space officials invited reporters from all 15 Soviet

republics and several Western countries to the huge Baikonur Cosmodrome, 1,560 miles southeast of Moscow in Kazakhstan, to watch the blastoff. They also showed off the new space shuttle Buran and its ground facilities, gave news conferences and allowed reporters to roam freely in the once restricted nearby city of Leninsk. In a scene unlikely at NASA's Cape Canaveral, journalists were even allowed on a flatbed railroad car that carried the 310-ton capsule and booster assembly to the launch pad at dawn Monday. Flight preparations gave Soviet officials opportunities to defend the space program from allegations that it pollutes the environment, does not produce practical benefits and is too costly. Yuri P. Semenov, the chief engineer, said the Soviet Union spent 1.3 billion rubles (\$2 billion) on its civilian space program last year and the TM-8 mission cost 90 million rubles (\$138.8 million). He estimated potential economic benefits from the flight, such as discovery of mineral deposits using Mir's remote sensing equipment, at 86 million rubles (\$132 million). Officials said the new modules were nearly finished and the two cosmonauts would attach them in October and February. Mir already is joined with Kvant, an astrophysics laboratory. The first new module features a shower and sink, airlock for spacewalks and incubator in which Japanese quail eggs will be hatched to study the effects of weightlessness on heredity. The second has a telescopic camera for studying the stars, a docking port for the Buran shuttle and equipment to grow vegetables. Viktorenko and Serebrov are to be replaced by another crew in early March.



Polish Solidarity leader Lech Walesa holds up a golden horseshoe to photographers. He received the horseshoes from an unknown visitor after his arrival at Dusseldorf Airport yesterday for a four day visit to West Germany.

Solidarity leader visits Germany

By TERENCE PETTY
Associated Press Writer

DUESSELDORF, West Germany — Poland's Solidarity leader, Lech Walesa, began a West German visit yesterday with a plea for Western aid, saying Solidarity's plan for economic reform in Poland will crumble without it. "Our victory in Poland is like a house of cards," Walesa said during a luncheon with the board of directors of the powerful German Federation of Labor Unions. "It would crumble if it were not financially ensured." Walesa, on the first day of a five-day visit, also met with Johannes Rau, governor of the industrial state of North Rhine-Westphalia. He presented Rau with a list of 16 proposed projects for West German companies in the Baltic port city of Gdansk, Walesa's hometown and the birthplace of the Solidarity trade union movement. Neither Rau nor Walesa gave details about the proposed projects. Walesa said he was extending an invitation to West Germans to "come and rebuild Poland" and urged West Germany to make a quick decision on financial assistance to the country. "The longer one waits the more expensive everything becomes," he said. "The East bloc, which has lifted its Iron Curtain, can also be attractive to Western investors," he added. West Germany has built good business ties with Eastern Europe, and the United States has suggested it take the lead in the West's efforts to support East bloc reforms. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government has promised West German aid for Poland, but the two sides have been unable to agree on how much. The more conservative wing in Kohl's coalition government also wants to link the aid to Polish promises to improve the condition of ethnic Germans in Poland. Walesa is trying to secure aid to help promote Polish reforms under the new government of Solidarity activist Tadeusz Mazowiecki, named last month as the East bloc's first

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— LECH WALESA,
Solidarity leader

non-Communist government leader. Upon arrival at Dusseldorf airport yesterday, Walesa called for East and West to overcome economic and political barriers, creating a Europe "where everyone feels that we are free." "We have the chance to work together fruitfully. From the airplane, I saw that we are indeed a united Europe, but it is hilly here and there, and there are also other obstacles," Walesa told reporters through an interpreter. "I believe that these hills, obstacles and walls can be removed," he said. Differences between the two countries spoiled Kohl's hopes of traveling to Poland to mark the 50th anniversary of the start of World War II. Relations between the two countries have been strained by recent suggestions by West Germany's conservative finance minister, Theo Waigel, that Polish lands once part of the German empire technically still belong to Germany. Labor Minister Norbert Blum said yesterday that he told Walesa a month-old West German ban on Polish seasonal workers was being lifted. Speaking to reporters after meeting with Walesa, Blum said there would be negotiations between Poland and West Germany on a quota for such workers.

U.S. sends aid to Colombian government

By BRUCE HANDLER
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BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Two gunmen killed an army colonel's wife outside a supermarket yesterday, and Washington delivered five helicopters to help the government break the drug lords' violent grip on the country. A police source said the government's 2½-week-old crackdown on traffickers has virtually paralyzed the nation's cocaine-producing laboratories. A newspaper predicted rising prices and a shortage of the coveted drug in the United States. Meanwhile a man suspected of being one of the chief money launderers for Colombia's cocaine cartel faced a deadline today for appealing his extradition to the United States. Also yesterday, the mayor of Bogota banned outdoor marches and demonstrations for an indefinite period as a precautionary measure in response to terrorist attacks by drug traffickers, Colombian radio reported. The private national radio network RCN said Bogota Mayor Andres Pastrana Arango ordered the ban "to maintain normal public order." In Medellin, where a nighttime curfew has been in effect since last week, an armed gang forced everyone out of a restaurant, then set the establishment on fire with gasoline, police said. It was not immediately clear if the attack was related to the cocaine barons fighting the government crackdown. Police and soldiers late yesterday continued patrolling the streets of Medellin, the nation's principal cocaine center 150 miles northwest of Bogota, which was the site of four bomb attacks Monday night. Police gave no motive for the slaying of Angela de Guerrero, 32. She was shot four times as she sat in her small sedan outside a supermarket in the northern suburbs by two gunmen who fled in a white car. Television footage showed a carton of eggs beside the slain woman and hysterical shoppers near the scene. The victim was identified as the wife of Col. Carlos Guerrero, a logistics planning officer for the joint military forces. "Right now we're not concerned about motive," said a Defense Ministry spokesman, Col. Eduardo Arevalo.



Heavily armed Colombian military police patrol Bogota's El Dorado International Airport. Yesterday five "Huey" helicopters donated by the United States for the government's war on narcotics traffickers arrived.

"We're concerned about catching the killers." Police have blamed previous instances of random violence on drug traffickers retaliating for the government crackdown. The United States delivered five UH-1H "Huey" transport helicopters, modified versions of the combat choppers that gained prominence during the Vietnam war. They arrived in a huge C-5 transport plane at Bogota's El Dorado airport, the last of the big-ticket items in President Bush's \$65 million package to help the government fight its drug war. In recent days, the United States has sent Colombia five C-130 transport planes and eight A37 reconnaissance and attack jets. The aid also includes machine guns, bulletproof vests, grenades, boats and trucks. Drug lords have waged a campaign

of bombings, assassinations and threats, largely to intimidate the government into refusing to extradite drug traffickers wanted in the United States. Colombia's powerful cartels are believed to supply the United States with 80 percent of its cocaine. The drug war began in earnest Aug. 18, when an assassination squad believed hired by drug czars killed leading presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan. Shortly after the helicopters were unloaded, an apparent bomb threat caused airport security agents to remove passengers and luggage from a jet of Colombia's Avianca Airlines about to take off for Miami. Soldiers cleared the airport and brought in bomb-sniffing dogs. A suspicious suitcase, shown on local TV newscasts, turned out to be full of rocks.

The National Police said yesterday that since the crackdown began, cocaine production in Colombia has practically stopped and that prices should go up as a result. "Cocaine-processing plants in Magdalena Medio, Vichada and the eastern plains are inactive," said a police official, who insisted his name not be used. So far this year, Colombian authorities say they have destroyed 252 cocaine labs, mostly in those three remote regions. The Bogota newspaper *El Tiempo*, citing unidentified police sources, forecasted yesterday a cocaine shortage in the United States "within 30 days at most." It also said that based on police information, a kilogram of cocaine, or 2.2 pounds, which now costs \$1,500 in Colombia and \$10,000 at its wholesale distribution point in Miami, will go up