

Ukraine students march towards their revolution

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From Susan Viets
in Kiev

IN WHAT is now dubbed the students' revolution, young Kievites yesterday marched to the factories, after 70,000 once again gathered at parliament to demand the resignation of the Prime Minister, Vitaly Masol, and new multi-party elections.

Flag-waving schoolchildren marched alongside university students, jeering and whistling as they passed the Ukrainian Council of Ministers. They stopped briefly at parliament, shouting: "Down with Masol", prime minister since the days when the Ukraine was ruled by the hardline communist chief, Vladimir Shcherbitsky. Students also called for the resignation of the president of the republic, Leonid Kravchuk.

A column of thousands then marched several miles to Kiev's industrial left bank to call on factory workers, watching from the windows, to strike. Earlier this week, student leaders used Ukrainian television to call for a general strike today. It is unclear whether it will go ahead, as the factory strike committees are not prepared.

Parliament interrupted its session for three hours while presidium members met to discuss a strategy for calming the students. A commission of MPs was formed to negotiate with them. "This is a revolution," said Dmytro Pavlychko, a presidium member and leading opposition MP.

Fifty hunger strikers from the main camp in the central October

Revolution Square has refused to move since breaking through a police cordon on Monday. The group has pitched tents at the steps to parliament and is encircled by a fence and by city police. More than 100 students are barricaded inside Kiev's state university for a second day, sitting on mattresses in the hall and listening to parliament on the radio. A student leader, Markiy Ivanishyn, said: "All of the universities and most of the technical schools in the capital are on strike, as well as most schools in western Ukraine."

■ WARSAW — The Ukraine officially apologised to Poland yesterday for a border incident on 7 October in which Ukrainian police used tear gas, batons and police dogs on Polish tourists who protested at the slow customs procedures, **AFP reports**.

The Polish Foreign Minister, Krzysztof Skubiszewski, received a verbal apology for the incident during a visit to the Ukraine, Russia and Byelorussia, Jerzy Zimowski, Poland's deputy Interior Minister said.

The incident at Szahyn in west Ukraine began when several dozen Poles complained they had waited four hours and still had not cleared customs. The tourists formed a protest committee to try to accelerate procedures, which customs officials took as an "act of rebellion".

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