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WARSAW, FEB 18 (REUTER/UPI) - THE WARSAW BRANCH OF THE POLISH WRITERS UNION IS EXPECTED TO MEET LATER THIS MONTH TO DISCUSS THE GOVERNMENT CLOSURE OF PERFORMANCES OF A CLASSIC POLISH PLAY BECAUSE OF AUDIENCE REACTIONS, USUALLY WELL-INFORMED SOURCES SAID TODAY.

THE PLAY WHICH WAS TAKEN OFF, "DZIADY" (FOREFATHERS EVE), BY THE 19TH-CENTURY POLISH POET ADAM MICKIEWICZ, DEPICTED POLISH SUFFERINGS UNDER RUSSIAN CZARIST OPPRESSION.

IT CONTAINED ANTI-RUSSIAN LINES TO WHICH AUDIENCES RESPONDED ENTHUSIASTICALLY.

MILITIA (POLICE) TEMPORARILY DETAINED ABOUT 50 STUDENTS WHO DEMONSTRATED AGAINST THE CLOSURE OF THE PLAY AFTER THE LAST PERFORMANCE IN WARSAWS NARODOWY THEATRE ON JANUARY 30, USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCES SAID.

A PETITION FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE WRITERS UNION BRANCH HAS BEEN SIGNED BY MORE THAN 200 MEMBERS, THE SOURCES SAID. OTHER PETITIONS WERE REPORTED TO BE CIRCULATING AMONG ACTORS AND STUDENTS.

THE SOURCES SAID THE WRITERS MEETING--FOR WHICH NO DATE HAS BEEN FIXED YET--MIGHT DEVELOP INTO A WIDER DEBATE ON CENSORSHIP AND COMMUNIST PARTY INTERVENTION IN CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

EARLIER THIS MONTH A PERFORMANCE OF A PLAY AGAINST TYRANNY, "GYUBAL WAHAZAR," BY STANISLAW IGNACY WITKIEWICZ, AN AVANT GARDE POLISH DRAMATIST OF THE 1930S, WAS POSTPONED AT THE LAST MINUTE FOR UNSPECIFIED "TECHNICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL REASONS."

CN 64

X/9 P - 1ST ADD - WARSAW WRITERS (CN 58) XXX SET

UPI'S WARSAW CORRESPONDENT REPORTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME UNEASINESS AMONG WARSAW WRITERS OVER THE CLOSING OF "DZIADY" AND THE SUBSEQUENT BAN ON IGNACY WITKIEWICZ'S ANTI-TYRANNY PLAY "GYUBAL WAHAZAR."

MEANWHILE, LITERARY CRITIC JANUSZ SZAPATANSKI FACES A WARSAW COURT THIS WEEK FOR ALLEGEDLY SATIRIZING POLISH GOVERNMENTAL AND CHURCH FIGURES IN AN OPERETTA.

LAST OCTOBER, JEWISH WRITER NINA KARSOV WAS GIVEN A THREE-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR PREPARING AND POSSESSING MATERIAL DEEMED HARMFUL TO THE STATE.

ABOUT 50 WARSAW STUDENTS WERE HELD BY POLICE JAN. 30 WHEN THEY PROTESTED THE CLOSING OF "DZIADY." AFTER BEING DETAINED FOR SEVERAL HOURS, MOST OF THE STUDENTS WERE RELEASED.

JT/A 1600/68 FEB 18