In mid-August, some 17,000 of the shipyard's workers began a sit-down strike to send a commission to Gdansk to negotiate with the rebellious workers. Walesa signed the document with a giant ballpoint pen decorated with a Solidarity (Polish trade union) - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. August revolt of 1980. omitted. This was the most important document of the Union! When on August 26th officials and opposition leaders of the past, led by Lech Walesa, the statement 'It Began in Gdansk' the heroes of the first Solidarity added 'And In the summer of 1980, a workers revolution began in Poland.'