

Fill-ins eyed for strikers

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Legal Services for New York City may hire "temporary" replacement workers if a crippling strike by 250 lawyers, paralegals and clerical workers remains unresolved.

Legal Services executive director Dale Johnson issued the threat to the union in a letter dated last week.

The strike — in its 15th week — has dramatically affected the delivery of legal advice to indigent tenants, welfare recipients and Social Security pensioners.

"Because the strike has gone on so long and because the obligation of our programs to deliver services to the client community continues, we believe that we have no recourse at this time but to recruit and hire temporary replacement workers. Our plan is to begin advertising on July 15, 1991," he wrote.

The Legal Services Staff Association accused Johnson of trying to break the union, a charge he denied.

Jobs will be held

Johnson said the strikers would be able to get their

jobs back after a settlement is reached.

In an effort to get the stalled talks going again, Johnson and union leader Anita Miller met briefly yesterday with a federal mediator.

More talks could be held over the weekend or early next week, said Miller, adding that the union had offered to negotiate around the clock to achieve a settlement.

The union says its paralegals and clerical workers are grossly underpaid and that its lawyers earn much less than Legal Aid attorneys, who represent indigent crim-

inal defendants.

Johnson said the agency, which relies on federal, state and city funds to operate, has made a "generous offer." He said the union rejected an offer to return to work and submit the dispute to binding arbitration.

"We feel very strongly that there be a negotiated settlement before we go back to work," said a union spokeswoman, Martha Ralman.

Striking lawyers said 50 management attorneys have been overburdened with their caseloads and that no new cases are being accepted.

Bronx Housing Court Judge Howard Trussel said many more tenants are appearing before him without attorneys, a situation similar to that of other housing courts.

"It makes our job more difficult when a tenant comes to court unrepresented," he said.

Rebel honored

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — The European Parliament awarded its 1990 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought yesterday to Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of Burma's outlawed democracy movement.