

San Quentin to Hire 30 More Guards

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By Tim Findley

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The addition of at least 30 more correctional officers and closer supervision of inmates was agreed to yesterday in a meeting at San Quentin between Corrections Director Raymond Procnier and organizations representing corrections officers.

Despite this agreement, the morale of the staff at the troubled institution was still a little shaky.

At least eight officers have quit in the last few days in wake of the incident a week ago that left three officers as well as three inmates dead. And more resignations are expected.

The officers were maintaining a sense of unity and duty, however, that was reflected the day after last Saturday's incident when all but one officer reported for work. Since then, the officers have been working long hours of overtime in what is clearly a tense situation.

Yesterday's meeting between top prison administrators and representatives of the Teamsters Union, California State Employees Association and California Correctional Officers Association, brought an agreement from Procnier to hire 43 more staff personnel at San Quentin. About 30 of those new positions will be

full time correctional officers.

It was also agreed that inmate custody status procedures may be modified with the over-all effect of tighter security.

All inmates will be "programmed" at all times — meaning that the inmates will have specific duties, classes or assignments to go to at all times.

Inmate movement in the prison will thus be more closely supervised.

In addition, inmates will "unlock" or be allowed out of their cells later in the morning and will "lockup" earlier in the evening than previously. Specific times have not

been set as yet.

Aaron Read, representative of the association, said the meeting also discussed possibilities of an individual alarm system for each officer to replace the whistle they now carry as their only defense.

Similar meetings are scheduled for the next few days in at least two more state prisons — Soledad and Deuel Vocational Institute.

Rumors persist among prison officials that new trouble may break out at one of those institutions or at the older Folsom State Prison near Sacramento.

Sources reported that or-

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ganizations representing the officers were still interested in reviving an old proposal to build a new prison near San Diego to cover long range needs to modernize and improve the prison system.