

40 Sea-Land workers sacked

THE Sea-Land Orient dispute took a dramatic turn yesterday when the management sacked 40 workers.

In addition, the sacked workers were asked to repay a sum equivalent to three days' salary for damage caused to the company as a result of the dispute.

A spokesman for the company confirmed last night that some workers had been dismissed but declined to say how many were involved.

He said details of the dis-

missals would be given in a press statement later today.

According to sources close to the company, the workers were dismissed for alleged violations of company rules. The sources did not elaborate.

Early this week the company announced in a statement that 80 workers who had gone on strike since last Friday had not been dismissed and had only to report to their supervisors to regain their jobs.

But the company had made it clear that it would not hold

discussions with the workers involved.

The work stoppage began after the company suspended three workers without pay for two weeks for alleged violations of company rules.

The 80 workers protested the suspensions, went on strike and claimed they represented the majority of the workers at Sea-Land.

In addition to demanding the reinstatement of the three workers, the group also asked for a greater say in future company policy.

The company on Saturday agreed to reinstate the three workers provided the 80 returned to their jobs immediately. When this offer was rejected, the company sought a court injunction against them entering the Kwaichung facilities.

The company also conducted a secret poll among the workers to find out if they wanted the group to represent them. According to the company, the workers voted against the group.

On Tuesday, the company allowed some of the workers to return to their jobs but told the others their cases were under discussion.

● Meanwhile negotiations between workers and the management of the Jardine Dyeing Factory in Shatin were deadlocked last night.

The company wants to close the factory but the workers are demanding better compensation terms.

The workers yesterday staged a sit-in outside the factory and a spokesman said they would continue their protest today.



JARDINE dyeing workers vote on a motion outside the factory yesterday.