

Polish PM fires deputy in scandal

by UPI

WARSAW, Poland -- Polish Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski fired his deputy, Andrzej Lepper, on Tuesday amid allegations of bribery.

Lepper is the leader of the Self Defense party, a junior coalition member with 46 seats in the 460-seat parliament.

Soon after being fired, Lepper withdrew his party from the coalition, raising the possibility a general election will have to be called two years ahead of schedule, a BBC correspondent reported.

"The aggression of the opposition makes it impossible to have a minority government", Kaczynski told a Warsaw news conference.

Without Lepper's party, Kaczynski can only count on 203 parliamentary votes, short of the 231 required for a majority.

The opposition Democratic Left Alliance later said in a statement it would seek a no-confidence vote to force an early election, the report said.

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