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Guatemalan Businesspersons Organize Strike To Protest Tax Laws

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Oct. 7, the Coordination Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial and Finance Associations (CACIF) launched a three-day nationwide business strike to protest approval of six new tax laws by the national congress. Then, on Oct. 9, CACIF announced that it had called off the strike for 48 hours while negotiations with the government proceed. Guatemala City's Archbishop Prospero Penados was serving as mediator between President Vinicio Cerezo and the private sector. The new tax legislation was approved by the national congress on Sept. 17. Prior to the Oct. 7 strike, however, only one of the bills, which pertained to changes in income tax legislation, had been promulgated by the government. In response to the CACIF strike, President Cerezo ordered the promulgation of the remaining five bills. A "settlement" between the government and CACIF was expected on the evening of Oct. 12. (Basic data from PRENSA LATINA, 10/12/87)

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