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Union Workers At Four Michoacan Steel Plants End Strike & Agree To 9.5 Percent Raise

by Carlos Navarro

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After striking for over two weeks, on Aug. 19 union workers at four steel plants in Michoacan state accepted a raise of 9.5%. The agreement mediated by Michoacan Gov. Ausencio Chavez, Labor Secretariat (Secretaria de Trabajo y Prevision Social, STPS) mediator Emilio Gomez Vives, and union mediation specialist Manuel Cervantes Guerrero again ensured compliance with terms of the anti-inflation Economic Stability and Growth Pact (PECE), which limits salary increases to 9.9%. The union workers, who went on strike on Aug. 2, originally requested a salary increase of 12%. In fact, union members had initially rejected management's offer of a 9.5% wage increase during a vote held on Aug. 12. In addition to the 9.5% raise, each union employee received a bond valued at 1,000 nuevo pesos (US$305) and 50% of the pay they would have earned during the strike. Management also promised that there would be no reprisals against the strike leaders. The workers were employed at Siderurgica Lazaro Cardenas Las Truchas (Sicartsa), Servicios Minero Metalurgicos de Occidente (Sermmosa), and Servicios Siderurgicos Integrados (Sersiinsa), all members of the business conglomerate Group Villacero. The fourth plant is Ispat Mexicana (Imexsa), a member of the Ispat consortium. (Sources: Notimex, 08/05/93, 08/07/93, 08/09/93, 08/15/93, 08/17/93; La Jornada, 08/12/93, 08/13/93, 08/18/93, 08/19/93, 08/20/93)

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