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Mexican Public School Teachers Launch Indefinite Strike

by John Neagle

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On April 16 in Mexico City, the National Assembly of the Mexican Education Workers Coordinator (Coordinadora de Trabajadores de la Educacion en Mexico) voted to commence on April 17 an indefinite strike in all public schools in the federal district, the Valley of Mexico and the states of Oaxaca and Chiapas. Assembly members also voted approval for "staggered mobilizations" in the states of Chihuahua, Veracruz, Yucatan, Guerrero, Michoacan and Durango, where work stoppages will begin for a period of 24 hours and be increased up to 72 hours as long as government authorities do not meet teachers' demands. For several weeks, public school teachers in Mexico have insisted on a 100% wage hike. The Education Ministry has responded thus far with a 10% wage increase, to go into effect after May 15. Coordinator spokesperson Teodoro Palomino told reporters that at least 50% of all teachers are expected to participate in the strike on April 17. Palomino said that as many as 4,000 public schools in the federal district alone will be shut down, affecting about 5 million students. (Basic data from Notimex, 04/16/89; Xinhua, 04/17/89)

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