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Deborah Tyroler
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by Deborah Tyroler

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On June 12, the Nicaraguan government announced a 52% currency devaluation, and raised gasoline prices by 110%. (See CAU 06/14/89.) The next day taxicab drivers in Managua, Leon, Granada and Masaya stopped work to protest the fuel price increase. On the evening of June 13, about 200 riot police fired tear gas into a gas station yard in Managua that was serving as a taxi union headquarters. Cabbies at first refused to leave, but dispersed after leaders told them the strike would continue indefinitely. Police said the gathering of about 1,000 cabbies was illegal. Striking cab drivers in Managua resumed talks with government on June 14. Earlier, drivers rejected an offer by the government to sell gas for four days at the old price of 88 cents a gallon. The cab drivers presented a list of seven demands to the government, including a fuel price freeze. Union leaders met for the second time with Transportation Minister Mauricio Valenzuela and other government officials. (Basic data from AP, 06/14/89)

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