

6-27-1989

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Uruguay: Labor Confederation Confirms June 27 General Strike

by John Neagle

Category/Department: General

Published: Tuesday, June 27, 1989

On June 26, Uruguay's largest labor coalition, the National Workers Central (CNT), confirmed it will launch a general strike June 27. The event marks the eighth general strike against economic policies of President Julio Sanguinetti's government. The CNT is demanding a minimum wage hike of about 30% starting July 1. The current minimum wage of about US\$70 per month was established in February. The increase would apply to many of Uruguay's approximately 260,000 state employees. Public employees account for about 25% of the work force. Private sector companies raised wages by about 25% for the March-June period. Inflation for 1989 is projected at 80%. Union leaders are also demanding an increase in retirement pensions and termination of government programs to sell state-run companies. (Basic data from AP, 06/26/89)

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