Peru: Six National Unions On Strike

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Category/Department: General

Published: Tuesday, August 1, 1989

As of July 31, six national unions were engaged in work stoppages to pressure the government and private business owners for wage hikes. The unions pertained to miners, teachers, textile workers, oil workers, farmers and bank employees. Secretary general of the Bank Employees Federation (FEB), Jorge Diaz Alarcon, said the union's 24-hour strike on Monday had been called after the Labor Ministry failed to respond to a demand for a $500 per month salary increase. He added, "If our just requests are not dealt with in the next few days, we will decide whether to go on a indefinite general strike." A strike by the employees of the state-owned Banco de la Nacion began July 24. Management at the Banco de la Nacion said they had asked the Labor Ministry to declare the strike illegal because most bank personnel were not respecting the strike. On July 31, union leaders for some 12,000 public sector physicians on strike for 63 days were to have met with President Alan Garcia to resolve their walk-out. Leaders of the Peruvian Mine and Metalworkers Federation have said they would commence a strike on Aug. 14 their wage demands were not met. The Union of Peruvian Educators said that its general assembly would decide Aug. 5 whether to call a teachers' strike. (Basic data from AFP, 07/31/89)

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