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John Neagle

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by John Neagle
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On Oct. 1, the Dominican government announced a 66% price hike on gasoline, raising the cost per gallon to $0.60 to $0.95. By Oct. 3, students and labor union members were protesting in the streets. In Santo Domingo, demonstrators threw bombs and rocks at police, and set fire to barricades of old tires. Police reported using tear gas to disperse students from the Autonomous University. In San Francisco de Macoris, 80 km. east of the capital, demonstrators attacked food delivery trucks. Union leaders told reporters they will prepare plans this week for a nationwide strike in an effort to persuade the government to repeal the gasoline price increase. Spokespersons for President Joaquin Balaguer's government said the decision to increase the price of gasoline was the result of a central bank liquidity crisis, and the need to repay about $227 million to Venezuela for oil imports. The government, they said, cannot continue subsidizing fuel. On Tuesday, the Coordinating Committee of Popular Organizations in San Francisco de Macoris, announced its decision to call a strike in the northern part of the country. (Basic data from AFP, 10/03/89; Xinhua, 10/04/89)

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