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Panama: Public Employees Demonstrate Against U.S. Invasion

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Jan. 17, some 300 public employees demonstrated in Panama City against the US military occupation. While marching through the city to the presidential palace, demonstrators chanted anti-US slogans and denounced what they described the installation of a "climate of terror" in state-run enterprises. Hector Aleman, secretary general of the Public Employees Federation (FENASEP), condemned the recent dismissal of some 2,300 government workers. The US-installed government of President Guillermo Endara authorized the dismissal of all functionaries linked to the previous military government of ousted general Manuel Antonio Noriega. Aleman said protesters would file a legal suit Jan. 18 charging the dismissal order was unconstitutional. A FENASEP delegation met Wednesday with Endara, who promised to review the government workers' situation. (Basic data from AFP, 01/17/90)

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