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Petroperu Workers Strike To Demand Emergency Measures To Avoid Company's Financial Collapse

by John Neagle

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On Dec. 18, workers at the state-run oil company, Petroleos de Peru (PetroPeru), commenced a 48-hour strike to pressure the government into implementing an "emergency program" to prevent the company's financial collapse. The 19,000 employees are members of the Peru's petroleum industry union, FUNPETROL. PetroPeru officials asserted that the company would lose \$1 million for every day workers were on strike. As a result, they warned, Peru may be forced to import petroleum derivatives. The strike aggravated gasoline supply shortages, resulting from the shut-down on Friday of the La Pampilla refinery, located on the outskirts of Lima. The 400,000 barrel-per-day refinery was closed due to lack of spare parts for essential machinery. FUNPETROL secretary general Luis Vargas Bermudez said the oil company crisis is the result of the Economy Minister's misconceived economic and financial policies. (Basic data from Notimex, 12/19/89)

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