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Honduras: Banana Workers Continue Strike; President Callejas To Intervene

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On July 21, the Tela Railroad Company employees' union (SITRATERCO) gave Chiquita Brands International (formerly United Brands) until Tuesday, July 24, to decide between continued operations in Honduras, or leaving the country. Tela is a subsidiary of Chiquita. Banana plantation workers and Tela employees commenced a strike in late June to demand wage hikes. As of Saturday, the strikers had not received a response from company management since July 16. Local radio reports indicated that family members of US citizens working for the railway in Honduras have left the country "without explanation." On July 24, government officials told reporters that President Rafael Callejas would meet with company managers and representatives of the Tela workers' union on Thursday in La Lima, Cortes department. Honduras ranks as the world's second-largest banana exporter, after Ecuador. (Basic data from Honduras Network Bulletin, 07/17/90; Tiempo, 07/11/90; Notimex, 07/21/90, 07/24/90)

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