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5,000 Demonstrate In San Salvador Against Government's Economic Policies, Demand End To War

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Oct. 15, 5,000 persons marched in downtown San Salvador, protesting the government's economic policies, and demanding an end to the war. The demonstration was organized by the Permanent Committee on Debate for Peace (CPDP), an umbrella group for numerous labor, professional, civic, student and political organizations. Marco Tulio Lima, CPDN member and leader of the National Unity of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), said the nation's economic crisis was exacerbated by a 55% fuel price hike implemented last week. [Prior to the price increase, premium gasoline sold for \$1.59 per gallon; regular, at \$1.26; and, diesel, \$0.84.] As of Oct. 15, almost 25,000 national government and municipal employees were engaged in work stoppages, demanding that respective employers fulfill commitments on wage hikes and other issues. Government officials have responded by threatening to imprison strikers. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 10/11/90; AFP, 10/15/90)

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