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## Nicaragua: Reactions To Economic Austerity Plan

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On March 5, customs employees, on strike since March 2, responded to the government's new economic stabilization package announced March 3 (see 03/06/91 CAU) by expanding pressure tactics. About 200 trucks were stranded at the Honduran border. The strikers are demanding a wage hike. In its March 5 issue, daily newspaper La Prensa asserted that the National Workers Front (FNT), under the influence of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), is committed to sabotaging the government's economic stabilization program. The FSLN leadership, said La Prensa, was behind the occupation of the Oscar Perez banking complex which effectively paralyzed foreign trade transactions. In a Radio Ya broadcast, presidency deputy minister Antonio Ibarra denied a report appearing in daily newspaper Barricada that 60,000 public employees will be dismissed. Ibarra said that Barricada is irresponsibly fomenting discord. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, EFE, AFP, 03/05/91)

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