

5-24-1991

Nicaragua: Notes On Continuing National Teachers Strike

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen>

Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Nicaragua: Notes On Continuing National Teachers Strike." (1991). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/5537>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

Nicaragua: Notes On Continuing National Teachers Strike

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, May 24, 1991

Of the nation's 29,000 secondary and primary school teachers, about 15,000 have been on strike since April 8. According to National Teachers Association leader Mario Quintana, the teachers demand a pay hike to compensate for a 40% increase in the cost of living caused the government's anti-inflation plan launched March 3. At present, secondary teachers earn between \$60 and \$80 per month, and primary school teachers, \$42 to \$60. The strikers demand that all teachers receive a minimum salary of \$100 per month. The government has proposed to increase teachers' salaries by 5% per month over the next four months. May 13: Police were unable to dislodge strikers occupying a Managua high school. One teacher was injured when a striker threw a rock at police. May 19: Deputy education minister Hortensia Rivas said only 25% of secondary teachers and 15% of primary school teachers in Managua support the strike. She added that adherence to the strike in other parts of the country ranged between 5% and 20%. May 20: An estimated 5,000 teachers, students and parents demonstrated in front of the Presidential Palace. Demonstrators climbed over the metal fence erected by police and congregated on the plaza in front of the building. A delegation of parents and teachers met with Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo. President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro said public schools must be reopened immediately. She described the strikers as "hotheads." May 22: Negotiations between Presidency Minister Lacayo and strike leaders ended in deadlock. Hundreds of students occupied the National Assembly building in Managua. A student spokesperson told reporters that the students decided to occupy the building in response to government intransigence in meeting teachers demands. May 23: About 100 students continued the occupation of the National Assembly building. Student spokespersons said they remain on the premises until the government had settled the conflict with striking teachers. Strikers are now demanding that the minimum wage cover at least 40% of the government-defined "basic subsistence" basket, comprised of 53 products. Teachers have reduced their salary hike demand from 100% to 80%. Government officials have modified their initial offer. Instead of a four-month payout period for the 20% increase, the period would be reduced to two months. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 05/13/91, 05/20/91, 05/22/91; EFE, 05/23/91)

-- End --