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Brazil: Metalworkers' Strike In Sao Paulo Industrial Belt Continues

by Barbara Khol

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On April 17, government officials said General Motors, Ford, Volkswagen, Mercedes Benz and Scania reported suspension or a precipitous decline in production, result of a metalworkers' strike affecting the Sao Paulo industrial belt. Known as ABCD, the industrial belt is comprised of the cities of Santo Andre, Sao Bernardo, Sao Caetano and Diadema. Vicente de Paulo Silva, president of the Metal Workers Union of Sao Bernardo and Diadema, said strikers in the ABCD are supported by over 50% of 186,000 union members. The union launched the strike April 15 after rejecting an 89.75% wage hike offer divided into three phases 50% in April, 15% in May, and 10% in June. Autolatina holding company for Latin American subsidiaries of Volkswagen and Ford lost 11,500 units of output in three days. Two days into the strike the General Motors subsidiary lost production of 700 units of its Opala and Monza models. Union sources said that the strike has affected the following companies: Mercedes Benz, Toyota, General Motors, Volkswagen, Scania, Black and Decker, Brastemp, Ford and Metaleve. (Basic data from EFE, 04/15/91; AFP, 04/17/91)

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