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Uruguay: Major Labor Confederation Announces Plans For 24-hour General Strike

by Barbara Khol
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On May 19, Uruguay's major labor confederation, the PIT-CNT (Plenario Intersindical y Convencion Nacional de Trabajadores), confirmed plans for a 24-hour general strike for May 21 to protest wage policy, government administrative reforms and privatization. Union leaders said the strike was called also as a means to show solidarity with public sector employees who argue the government has not met its commitment to maintain their real salaries at 1989 levels. The government announced a 12 to 25% wage hike for public employees effective in the month of May. Consumer price level inflation since the last increase was 21%. On Monday, factories were closed, city traffic and public bus transport services were far below normal. Hospitals and clinics continued emergency services, while work at offices, factories and the Montevideo port facilities appeared to be shut down. The general strike was the second of its kind this year. (Basic data from EFE, 05/19/91; AFP, 05/21/91)

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