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Panama: Demonstrators Protest Reforms To Social Security Institute (css) Charter

by Deborah Tyroler
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On Nov. 7, an estimated 500 demonstrators marched through the streets of the capital and rallied in front of the congressional building to protest draft legislation to reform the Social Security Institute's (CSS) charter. (See CAU 11/01/91 for previous coverage.) Aniano Pinzon, secretary general of the Panamanian Workers Confederation (Confederacion de Trabajadores de Panama-CTP), said the proposed reforms were "imposed by international financial institutions and must be rejected." According to Pinzon, contemplated changes in social security legislation will lead to privatization of the CSS, and with this, negative consequences for the system's 400,000 beneficiaries. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 11/06/91, 11/07/91)

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