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Deborah Tyrolier

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Honduras: Labor Conflict At National Electricity Institute (enee) Continues

by Deborah Tyroler
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In November, the National Electricity Institute Workers Union (STENEE) commenced a strike to protest the government's plans to privatize selected ENEE services. The government declared the strike illegal and the company proceeded to dismiss 127 employees, including all STENEE leaders. (See CAU, 11/08/91, 12/06/91 and 12/13/91 for previous coverage.) Dec. 27: Government officials broke off negotiations with union representatives after union leaders refused to sign an agreement which would have reinstated half of fired employees following a 30-day probation period. Dec. 28: Police spokespersons in San Pedro Sula reported that two persons were killed and three injured when two unidentified men tossed a fragmentation grenade at members of a recently formed pro-government union at the ENEE. Rigoberto Soto, president of the pro-government union, and a survivor of the grenade attack, attributed the incident to STENEE members. He noted that since establishment of the new union, he had received several death threats. Jan. 2: Of the 1,200 striking ENEE workers, 500 returned to work. STENEE president Gladys Lanza told reporters, "This represents a defeat not so much for our union, but for the entire Honduran labor movement." Jan. 6: Lanza told reporters that she had information concerning a plan to fire 400 workers at the electricity plant in Tegucigalpa. She said ENEE management will attempt to keep the plant operating with a work force of slightly more than 200. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 12/28/91, 01/02/92; Agence France-Presse, 12/28/91, 01/06/92)

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