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Peru: Oil Workers Launch Indefinite Strike

by Barbara Khol
Category/Department: General
Published: Tuesday, August 6, 1991

On Aug. 5, an estimated 20,000 unionized oil workers launched an indefinite strike. Juan Luna, leader of the National Oil Workers Federation (Federacion Nacional de Petroleros del Peru-FNPP), said the strike will affect production, refining and distribution operations by Petro-Peru, Occidental, Petroservis and Petromar. According to Luna, strikers demand that in addition to fulfillment of previous agreements to raise wages, the government must assume responsibility for Petro-Peru's financial crisis. Annual financial losses are estimated at $150 million. In statements to reporters on July 31, FNPP leader Luis Vargas said 65% of Petro-Peru sales revenues are channeled into central government coffers. Vargas asserted that the company must retain 60% of its revenues for making investments in improving productivity and to compensate the work force. (Basic data from AFP, 07/31/91, 08/05/91)

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