

A NEW ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE UNION
AT GUATEMALA'S COCA-COLA PLANT.

Using the pretext that the shut-down of the plant is temporary, and claiming bankruptcy, the Coca-Cola Company has stopped its operations at the bottling plant in Guatemala city since February 17, 1984. With this actions of massive layoffs, the Company hopes to destroy the Union and then to reopen operations with new personnel.

The Company is in violation of agreements signed in 1980 by Coca-Cola, Inc., the UIF (International Union of Food and Allied Workers) and the Guatemalan Union that basically read:

- " To acknowledge the Union and workers' rights."
- " To remove the police and the Army from the installations to stop the repression."
- " To compensate the widows and orphans of those who have been killed or who have disappeared."
- " To change the holders of the franchise and to remove repressive administrators."
- " To eliminate a company-directed, so called "workers association."
- " To discuss a collective contract and to resolve any problems by means of discussion and negotiations."

Coca-Cola, Inc., whose head office is in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, undertook the responsibility of guaranteeing the fulfillment of the agreement, an agreement that is currently being violated by the unilateral decision to shut down the plant without consultations with the other parties involved. Violated also is that part of the agreement which prohibits massive layoffs and firings, and the methods now being used to deal with the problem. The laws of Guatemala have been violated, as well, since the company has not followed the necessary legal steps for the declaration of bankruptcy. It is illogical, too, that this multinationally owned subsidiary, that is directly owned by one of the biggest multinationals in the world, could go bankrupt.

As is recognized world-wide, the Coca-Cola Company's plant in Guatemala City has, since 1975, carried out numerous different maneuvers aimed at destroying the Union. At least ten workers have been murdered and many others have disappeared: once again attempts to destroy the Union. Today, as in the past, with the total dedication to the struggle of our workers and the support of International Solidarity, we are certain that we will overcome the unjust and arbitrary actions of this multinational and its ally, the military dictatorship. Four hundred and sixty workers are determined to resist until the final consequence and are now occupying the Coca-Cola installation in Guatemala City: in the face of this situation, we ask you urgently to take action in support of these workers by sending telegrams to the following:

Coca-Cola, Inc.
P.O. Drawer # 1734
310 Northwest N.W.
ATLANTA, Georgia, 30301.

Carlos Padilla Natareno
Ministro de Trabajo
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala,
Guatemala, C.A.

and please send telegrams of solidarity and support directly to the workers at:

Trabajadores of Coca-Cola
24 Calle 6-01 Zona 11
Ciudad de Guatemala, Guate, C.A.
Telephone: 76 26 69.

Please send copies of all to: Commission in Support of CNUS, Bx. 35304, Station E, Vancouver. Thank you for your interest and solidarity.

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A. U. C. E.