

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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P R 191157Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7566

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: LABOR UNITY OF ACTION GROUP CALLS FOR PROTEST AGAINST  
ECONOMIC MEASURES

REF: MADRID 7789

1. IT HAS TAKEN THE COS (COORDINADORA DE ORGANIZACIONES  
SINDICALS - THE NATIONAL "UNITY OF ACTION" MECHANISM GROUPING  
THE SOCIALIST UGT, CHRISTIAN SOCIALIST USO, AND COMMUNIST-  
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DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS - SWC) A GOOD WEEK TO REACT TO

THE LABOR ASPECTS OF THE GOVT'S OCT. 8 ECONOMIC MEASURES (MADRID 7789) WHICH THE SAME "BIG THREE" TRADE UNIONS WERE QUICK TO INDIVIDUALLY REJECT (REFTEL. THUS, ON OCT. 15. THE COS FINALLY SPOKE OUT ON THIS MAJOR ISSUE INVOLVING LABOR, STATING THAT IT WOULD VERY SOON CALL FOR THE "MOBILIZATION OF THE WORKING CLASS" AGAINST THE MEASURES. A COMMUNQUE DECLARED THAT "THE COS CONSIDERS A PEACEFUL MOBILIZATION NECESSARY AND URGENT", AND THAT ITS PROPOSALS WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC ON OCT. 18.

2. ACCORDING TO THE USUALLY WELL-INFORMED EL PAIS (OCT. 16) AND HOJA DEL LUNES (OCT. 18), THE COS WOULD CAREFULLY AVOID ANY REFERENCE TO A GENERAL STRIKE, RATHER CALLING FOR A MASSIVE "DAY OF STOPPAGES" OR "PROTEST DEMONSTRATION".

3. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH MOST WORKERS ARE APPARENTLY UNHAPPY ABOUT THE MEASURES, PARTICULARLY THE ARTICLE 35 MODIFICATIONS (EASING HIRING AND FIRING PROCEDURES) AND WHAT THE COS CALLS THE "WAGE FREEZE", IT IS DIFFICULT TO GUAGE WHAT LABOR'S RESPONSE TO SUCH A CALL MIGHT BE. IN AN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO DUCK CHARGES OF POLITICAL ADVENTURISM IN THESE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES, THE COS IS STRESSING ITS DESIRE TO AVOID VIOLENCE AND ANY POLITIZATION OF THE SO-CALLED "HOT AUTUMN". AS ONE LABOR OBSERVER PUT IT, PERHAPS THE IDEOLOGICAL AND TACTICAL DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AMONG THE "BIG THREE" IN THE COS WILL SERVE AS ANOTHER BRAKE ON ANY REALLY MASSIVE PROTEST. STABLER

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