

## **Sitrazinc, Zinc Refinery Workers Union Meeting.**

Simon Diaz Huamani- Secretario General

Luis Ramos Samame-Sec. Organizacion Y.E.

Esteban Huayllas Poccotay-Sec. De Control Y Disciplina

Are experiencing their first strike in 12 years. Lack of media coverage due to presidential election, "media is controlled by multinationals".

New Canadian ownership of company does not want to honour the job security clause in collective agreement.

-- 500 unionised workers as well as third party workers are on strike.

Due to economic recession of year 2000 -\$152 million was sold in product. \$100 million was the cost of production.

-In Peru it is law to continue productivity during strike. All strikes are considered illegal due to a "technicality" the Ministry of Labour Council could not resolve.

10 day Strike ended May 9. The company promised to honour negotiation process and membership agreed. If there is not a serious offer-they'll go back on strike. This is a brave stand by the union, considering inflation in Peru =1/2%/mo., compared to Canada of 2% per year.

Life expectancy of Peruvian worker is 65. Retirement age is 65. There is no law that states the age of retirement. Retirement is based upon the number of years of service and pension contribution.

Because of privatisation of state owned companies-pension funds are invested by company. At the point of privatisation workers are allowed to buy shares, but could not accumulate over 1% margin.

*Point of Interest: Within Sitrazinc, an officer called the " Secretary of Control" is responsible to ensure the union abides by its own laws. I like this idea.*