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Andean Pact Commission Chief Worried About Implementation Of Economic Integration Plans

by Barbara Khol Category/Department: General Published: Thursday, April 23, 1992

On April 20, Luis Luna, Ecuadoran foreign trade and integration undersecretary, told reporters that Industry, Trade and Integration Minister Juan Falconi is consulting with counterparts in Andean Pact member-nations on several problems obstructing implementation of the Andean free trade agreement. Falconi is president of the Cartagena Accord Commission. According to Luna, renegotiating the common external tariff (AEC) applied to third countries is of greatest concern. Next, ministers need to discuss the impact of the political crisis in Peru, and the break in diplomatic relations between Venezuela and Peru on Andean common market plans. At the last Andean Pact summit, respective heads of state agreed to an AEC ranging from a minimum 5% to a maximum 20%. Members of the Cartagena commission integration and/or foreign trade ministers have not yet concluded talks on implementing the AEC. The AEC and intraregional free trade measures are scheduled to go into effect in July. The last scheduled meeting of the Commission was to have taken place in Lima only hours after President Alberto Fujimori dissolved the national congress. The meeting was cancelled. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 04/20/92)

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