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Guatemalan Politicians Meet With Mexican Colleagues; Request Easier Terms On Oil Purchases

by Deborah Tyroler

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During the first meeting of Guatemalan and Mexican congresspersons in Mexico City on Oct. 2, Guatemalan delegates requested easier payment terms for Mexican oil. Guatemalan Deputy Eduardo Tager said that in the past Mexico had supplied his country with oil on the basis of 120-day payment terms applied to a third of such shipments received on a credit basis. He complained that currently the Mexican government is demanding payment on a 30-day basis. Mexican congressperson Rebeca Arenas told the press that given her country's difficult financial situation, it is no longer possible to provide concessions beyond those included in the San Jose Agreement sponsored by Venezuela and Mexico. The assembled politicians also discussed the return of some 46,000 Guatemalan refugees currently residing in Mexico. Both sides agreed to abide by the recommendations of the UN High Commission for Refugees. In brief, these recommendations stated that the refugees should be permitted to return to Guatemala on a voluntary, but gradual, basis. Finally, Guatemalan deputies presented formal requests for assistance by the Mexican government in the areas of natural resource exploitation and low-cost medical supplies.

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