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John Neagle

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by John Neagle
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As described in the 9/16/86 issue of the INTER PRESS SERVICE, the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) recently issued a report on the Venezuelan economy. Highlights of the ECLA report follow: 1) Gross domestic product (GDP) declined by 1.2% in 1985. 2) Per capita income last year dropped below 1980 levels. Using 1980 as the base year (100), the per capita income index for 1985 was 78.4. 3) In 1985, total foreign debt declined relative to 1984, reaching $34 billion by year-end. (Foreign debt in 1978 totaled $16.383 billion.) 4) Urban unemployment increased from 5.2% in 1980 to 14.3% in late 1985. 5) Wages and salaries declined in 1984 by 10.9% and in 1985 dropped 5.8%. 6) Inflation in 1985 was 5.7%, down from 18.3% in 1984. 7) The construction sector experienced a 17% decline last year, while the petroleum sector dropped by 7%, while manufacturing as a whole declined by 4%. In contrast, in 1985 agricultural output grew 13%; fishing, 13%; mining, 15% (excepting petroleum).

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