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As described in the 9/20/86 issue of Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) recently issued a report on the Argentine economy. Highlights of the ECLA report follow: 1) In 1985, Argentine economic growth was negative, i.e., -4.4%. 2) Inflation last year was 386%, down from 690% in 1984. 3) Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita from 1980 to 1985 dropped by 18.7%. 4) Unemployment in the country's greater metropolitan areas increased from 2% in 1979 to 5.3% in 1985. 5) Foreign debt in 1985 totaled $48.3 billion, up from $46.9 billion in 1984. Meanwhile, interest payments on the debt declined, from $6.1 billion in 1984 to $5.7 billion last year. 6) Agricultural output declined by 3% in 1985 relative to 1984. In the same period, mining production dropped 3%, and industrial product fell 10%. 7) Public sector employment in the city of Buenos Aires since June 1985 has been cut back by 2.7%. Employee numbers in state enterprises have also been reduced by 6.3%. ECLA estimated that by year-end 1986, public sector jobs will be reduced by 40,000.

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