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Spanish Government Promises Trade Expansion With Venezuela; Trade Unions Support Political Approach To Debt Problem

by John Neagle

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Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi concluded an official visit in Spain Oct. 9 with promises from the Madrid government to strengthen bilateral economic relations. In addition, Spanish trade unions agreed to support Venezuela's bid for a political approach to the foreign debt problem. Secretary general of the Spanish labor commission, Marcelino Camacho, said Lusinchi's visit marked the first time a foreign head of state met with leaders of the three nation-wide trade unions. Union leaders told reporters their organizations support Spanish pressure on the European Economic Community (EEC) towards applying a political dimension to the debt crisis. Next, Spanish businesspeople expressed interest in supplying equipment, automotive parts and electrification for Venezuelan agriculture. Bankers indicated that Spanish markets would be opened to Venezuelan products, and addressed the possibility of increased Spanish investment in the Latin American country. The local Chamber of Commerce expressed support for Lusinchi's suggestion that Spain become a bridge between Latin America and the EEC.

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