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Notes On U.S.-mexico Trade Accord Procedural Developments & Related Matters

by Steven Ranieri

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On Oct. 25, US Trade Representative Carla Hills told reporters that President Bush would develop a trade agreement with Mexico within two years under the "fast track authority" mechanism. Thus, the final draft of the accord could be ready by mid-1992. According to a report by El Financiero (11/19/90), the fast track authority method may be challenged by members of Congress who believe they are being left out of the process. Reps. Donald Pease (Ohio) and Terry Bruce (Illinois) have sent a "confidential" letter to all members of the House asserting that the free trade agreement "intends to ignore the most pressing issues confronting the two nations: the environment, human rights, labor guarantees and anti-drug trade efforts." The letter requests that the congresspersons sign a letter to President Bush before his upcoming visit with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari demanding that the bilateral free trade proposal be submitted to the standard debate process, without time restrictions, in order for all members of the Congress to have an opportunity to vote on the pact and suggest and approve amendments. (Source: El Financiero, 10/26/90, 11/19/90; Notimex, 10/26/90)

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