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Cuba: Agreement With U.N. Development Programme To Complete Metal Processing Plants

by Barbara Khol
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On Aug. 11, the government's Economic Cooperation Committee (CECE) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) finalized an agreement for completing two metal processing plants in Pinar de Rio and Havana provinces. Output is destined for both domestic and export markets. The sophisticated plants separate metals using a procedure that cuts energy consumption by thousands of oil per year, as well as reducing air pollution. Under the agreement, Cuba will contribute 4,135,400 million pesos while the UNDP plans to allocate US$700,000 worth of technical equipment and professional training for two research labs responsible for identifying areas for long-term mining investments. The labs will provide a new source of jobs to area residents. According to recent feasibility studies, Cuba could export about US$100 million worth of copper and gold per year. Similar revenue projections have been prepared for lead and zinc exports. Ventura Herrera, an official with the Basic Industry Ministry involved in the project, said the two processing plants are already in first-phase operation, and have proven profitable. He added, "We have obtained a return of US$25 million on our original investment of US$7 million money that has been plowed into new industries." The UNDP began working in Cuba in the 1960s. The UN organization is currently supporting 12 projects in the mining, pharmaceutical, chemical and biotechnological industries.
(Source: Radio Havana Cuba, 08/12/92)

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