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Colombia: Barco Administration Introduces Most Serious Agrarian Reform Legislation In 25 Years

by John Neagle
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The Colombian government under President Virgilio Barco appears to have introduced the most serious proposal for agrarian reform in the past 25 years. Before the plan goes into effect, however, it must be approved by the national congress. In the next few days, Liberal Party congressman Guillermo Gonzalez will present the reform bill for debate. If approved by the congress, the government reform plan will authorize the expropriation of agricultural land in "priority redistribution areas," regardless of whether the land is being productively exploited by the owner/s. Next, the new legislation would also channel increased amounts of state revenues to agriculture through special tariffs, and establish a program wherein the government would match funding by farmers for infrastructural improvements.

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