9-24-1992

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O.a.s. Study Reports Favorable Prospects For Latin American Tourist Industry

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Category/Department: General
Published: Thursday, September 24, 1992

At a two-day seminar in Washington on tourism and development, the Organization of American States (OAS) environmental and regional development department released a study which predicts a tourist industry boom throughout Latin America and the Caribbean over the next few years. The study, to be presented at the year-end meeting of the OAS Inter-American Economic and Social Council, states that Latin America's ecological diversity is a drawing card in the global expansion of "eco-tourism." The region's biological and geological attractions such as unique coral reefs and immense tropical forests could be converted into a showcase for traditional tourism, as well as educational programs on the environment. The end of civil wars in most of Central America should also provide optimum conditions to develop regional tourism. According to the study, over the last three decades, domestic and foreign tourism earned about US$12 billion for Caribbean countries, and an estimated US$102 billion for all of Latin America. (Source: Spanish news service EFE, 09/15/92)

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