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Uruguay May Acquire Argentine Government's Stake In Salto Grande Hydroelectric Dam

by Erika Harding
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On Sept. 18 in Montevideo, spokespersons for the Uruguayan state-run Electric Power and Transmission Co. (UTE) told the Agence France-Presse that the company may consider acquiring the Argentine government's stake in the Salto Grande hydroelectric dam if Buenos Aires carries out recently-announced plans to sell its stake. UTE would first have to receive authorization from the federal government, however, since the power company has been slated for eventual privatization. The Salto Grande dam, located about 500 km. north of Montevideo along the Uruguay River, has been run by both countries since construction was completed in 1979. The complex generates 1,890 megawatts per day, 67% of which is consumed by Argentina, and the rest by Uruguay. UTE operates three smaller hydroelectric plants elsewhere in Uruguay, but power generated by Salto/Grande accounts for 43% of total electricity distributed by UTE nationwide. (Source: Agence France-Presse, 09/18/92)

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