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Spanish President Visits Ecuador; Changes In Bilateral Balance Of Payments Favoring Ecuador Expected

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On Nov. 8 Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez arrived in Quito, Ecuador, for a three-day official visit. The head of state was accompanied by a large entourage, consisting of Economy Minister Carlos Solchaga and Cultural Minister Javier Solana, among other government officials, businesspeople and more than 50 reporters. Ecuadorian President Luis Febres Cordero welcomed the Spanish at the Mariscal Sucre airport. The Spanish president's agenda included two meetings with Febres Cordero, encounters with representatives of Ecuadorian political opposition parties, a trip to Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city and construction site of a dam project financed by Spanish capital. Spanish government spokesman and Culture Minister, Javier Solana, told reporters that his government's primary interests are investments in public works, hospital supply plants and the sale of telephone systems to Ecuador. Agreements between the two nations to be discussed include these and other projects, such as the participation of Spanish capital in the construction of a roadway system circling Guayaquil, oil prospecting and exploration in Ecuador, and electrification projects in selected regions. Solana pointed out that trade and financing agreements could influence the balance of payments between the two nations in Ecuador's favor. Spain has accumulated a balance of payments surplus with Ecuador totaling $190 million during the last five years. Gonzalez planned to leave Ecuador for Peru on Nov. 11. After a two-day visit in Peru, the Spanish delegation will travel to Cuba. Prior to arriving in Quito, Gonzalez and company made a brief stopover in Venezuela, where the president was met by Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi. (Basic data from UPI, 11/08/86; PRENSA LATINA, 11/09/86)

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