12-4-1986

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Notes On Brazilian Foreign Minister's African Tour

by John Neagle

Category/Department: General

Published: Thursday, December 4, 1986

Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodre said Nov. 21 that his three-day visit in Angola opened several opportunities for cooperation in agricultural and livestock projects in Luanda's "green belt," including a coffee rehabilitation program. Trade between the two nations totaled $115 million in the first half of 1986. The Brazilian government is currently gearing up for increased participation in oil drilling operations in Angola's northern region and in the Kapanda hydroelectric project via the state company BRASPETRO. At a press conference in Luanda, the minister confirmed that President Jose Sarney is planning an African tour for 1987. From Angola, De Abreu Sodre traveled to Zimbabwe, where discussions took place on bilateral cooperation in the areas agricultural and industrial development. The first step toward expanded relations was made on Nov. 24 when the Brazilian foreign minister announced his government's decision to open an embassy in Zimbabwe. From Harare, De Abreu Sodre and entourage traveled to Nigeria and Cameroon. In 1985 Brazilian trade with African nations totaled a record $3.6 billion, equal to trade with all of Latin America in the same year. (Basic data from PRENSA LATINA, 11/21/86, 11/25/86)

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