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 Argentine-brazilian Economic Integration Accords In Final Phase; Uruguay Participates In Common Market Initiative

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On Dec. 8 Argentine President Raul Alfonsin arrived in Brazil for a four-day official visit for the purpose of officially completing a series of economic integration accords between the two nations. Brazilian counterpart Jose Sarney met Alfonsin in Carajas, Brazil, accompanied by Foreign Minister Roberto de Abreu Sodre, Finance Minister Dilson Funaro and the chief of the Brazilian military. The Argentine president was accompanied by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille, and Public Works Minister Pedro Trucco. During the welcoming ceremony, Sarney said, "Brazil and Argentina are initiating...with the signing of the protocols...a Latin American common market." He added that regional economic integration will liberate Latin American nations "from many dependencies." Alfonsin declared that talks with Sarney will include discussion of the foreign debt. The presidents planned to travel to Brasilia the following day, where on Dec. 10 they will conclude a series of agreements based on 12 integration protocols established in July during a visit by Sarney in Buenos Aires. The accords cover a number of areas, from nuclear energy to foodstuffs, as well as a $200 million investment fund to finance bilateral enterprises. Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti will be present at the Wednesday encounter in Brasilia. Uruguay was the first nation to join in the integration process initiated by Brazil and Argentina. The long-term objective of these economic agreements is the creation of a Latin American common market. On Thursday Alfonsin and Sarney will meet with an estimated 200 businesspeople from both nations in Brasilia. (Basic data from UPI, 12/08/86; PRENSA LATINA, 12/08/86)