

8-21-1987

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Recommended Citation

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Concern In Mexico City Over Failure To Reinstate Nicaragua As Recipient Of Oil Exports

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, August 21, 1987

According to statements by Mexican officials published by local newspapers August 20, oil shipments to Nicaragua may be resumed, but not in the immediate future. Oil and Mines Ministry spokespersons said that although oil sales to Nicaragua would be congruent with Mexican foreign policy, the decision was in the hands of President Miguel de la Madrid. Before a meeting in late July between De la Madrid and his Venezuelan counterpart, Jaime Lusinchi, to renew and modify the San Jose Pact, press accounts had indicated Mexico's willingness to resume oil deliveries to Managua, despite that country's inability to pay for the crude. However, Nicaragua was not reinstated as one of the Pact's beneficiaries. Under the San Jose Agreement, Mexico and Venezuela provide oil on easy terms and at preferential prices to Central American and Caribbean nations. The explanation for Nicaragua's exclusion from the Pact was its failure to make even token interest payments on previous oil shipments. Some Mexican officials were quoted August 20 as saying that if oil shipments to Managua are not resumed, the viability of the Central American peace plan (signed by the region's presidents August 7) would be jeopardized. (Basic data from EXCELSIOR, PRENSA LATINA, 08/20/87)

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