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On Nov. 24, Hector Arguello Lopez, a Tabasco state federal deputy, said the federal government has promised to halt sugar imports in the near future. According to Arguello, the move is intended to help the industry recover from a sugar glut. On a related matter, the Sugar Industry Committee (Comite de la Agroindustria Azucarera, COAGAZ) on Nov. 29 unveiled a three-point program for 1993 to help pull the sugar industry out of its current crisis. The measures include confirmation of land titles for the more than 600,000 hectares of land dedicated to sugar production in Mexico, expansion of irrigation systems and a program to increase efficiency in sugar processing plants. COAGAZ spokespersons warned that unless the industry begins to reorganize, as many as 21% of the country's sugar mills could close, leaving half of the country's 55,000 sugar industry workers without jobs. (Sources: El Financiero, 11/25/92; La Jornada, 11/30/92)

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