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Chile May Resume Trade Ties With Soviet Union Via Mexico

by John Neagle

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On Jan. 3, the Chilean press reported that President Augusto Pinochet had announced that his government is participating in "discreet discussions" with the Soviet Union to initiate "commercial trade with the Soviets indirectly through Mexico." Diplomatic ties between the Chile and the USSR do not exist; trade between the two countries was suspended after the military coup in 1973. In an interview published in the French daily newspaper, *Le Monde*, Pinochet was quoted as saying, "We are discussing a rapprochement. The country cannot always be at war, fighting...If I see that things are going well, if there is a sincere opening (of trade), why not have normal relations?" Pinochet said the talks had taken place in Switzerland. About a year ago, the Chilean government authorized imports of Soviet-made automobiles, known as "Fiat Rusos." (Basic data from Xinhua, 01/03/88)

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