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Notes On Argentine-peruvian Economic Cooperation

by John Neagle

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On the evening of Dec. 25, Peruvian Agriculture Minister Juan Coronado traveled to Buenos Aires to negotiate the purchase of foodstuffs valued at \$100 million. As part of a trade agreement, said Peruvian officials, Lima seeks to purchase 300,000 tons of wheat, 200,000 tons of corn and 40,000 tons of soybean oil. Lima plans to sell Argentina products such as coal, fish oil and cotton. Coronado's mission included final arrangements for lines of credit recently established when Argentine President Raul Alfonsin visited Peru on Dec. 19 to inaugurate the Huarangal Nuclear Center. These credit lines include the purchase of tractors from Argentina for a total of \$26 million. The Huarangal reactor, producer of radioisotopes used in medicine, agriculture and industry, is described as the largest and most modern in Latin America. Reactor construction, for a cost of about \$106 million, was as joint project between the two governments. Argentina provided part of the financing and expertise in construction and operations. Alfonsin and Peruvian counterpart Alan Garcia signed a technical-scientific cooperation agreement on Dec. 19 involving further development in the nuclear area, including electricity generation, and mining and enrichment of uranium (extracted from the Macusani deposits in Peru's Puno department). (Basic data from AFP, 12/16/88, 12/25/88; AP, 12/18/88)

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