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Venezuelan President-elect On Tour To Drum Up Support For Opec Summit

by John Neagle

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On Jan. 18, Venezuelan President-Elect Carlos Andres Perez arrived in Baghdad, capital of Iraq, after a 24-hour visit to Iran. According to the Iraqi News Agency (INA), Perez also visited the United Arab Emirates during his regional tour motivated by drumming up support for an Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) summit. OPEC member-nations have not met at the summit level since 1975 in Algiers. While in Teheran, Perez met with Iranian President Ali Khamenei to discuss the potential for greater cooperation within the OPEC framework. Perez said, "We are not only after stabilization of fair oil prices but OPEC should also be changed into an important tool for safeguarding interests of Third World countries." After his two-day visit in Iraq, Perez is scheduled to tour Yugoslavia, West Germany and Spain. (Basic data from AFP, 01/18/89)

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