

1-26-1994

Mexico, Chile Expected To Expand Free-trade Accord

LADB Staff

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/sourcemex>

Recommended Citation

LADB Staff. "Mexico, Chile Expected To Expand Free-trade Accord." (1994). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/sourcemex/3087>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in SourceMex by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

Mexico, Chile Expected To Expand Free-trade Accord

by LADB Staff

Category/Department: Mexico

Published: 1994-01-26

According to a report released by the Banco Nacional de Mexico (Banamex) in mid-January, Chile and Mexico will soon initiate discussions aimed at adding several areas to their bilateral trade agreement, considered a first step toward Chile's integration into the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The Banamex report said certain key areas which are considered integral to NAFTA such as intellectual property, foreign investment and services were not negotiated in the Mexico-Chile Free Trade Agreement, which was implemented on Jan. 1, 1992. The report noted total trade between Mexico and Chile reached US\$236.6 million in 1992, an increase of 45% from 1991.

Under the Mexico-Chile agreement, the two countries will eliminate most tariffs by 1996. Tariffs will remain in place for such items as agricultural products, lumber, chemicals, petrochemicals, textiles and clothing through 1999. In fact, on Jan. 15, Chile's Treasury Minister Alejandro Foxley told reporters in Santiago that Chile expects to soon begin formal consultations with the US on how the South American country can gain access to NAFTA.

Foxley said this could be achieved through negotiations of bilateral agreements with Canada and the US or by employing the clause in NAFTA which allows countries other than the three original signatories to become incorporated into the treaty. In a visit to Santiago in early January, Canadian Trade Minister Roy MacLaren strongly endorsed the incorporation of Chile into NAFTA. Officials from US President Bill Clinton's administration have also placed Chile at the top of the list of Latin American countries that could be incorporated into NAFTA in the near future.

-- End --