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Argentina: Organized Labor Chief Refuses President-elect's Offer Of Foreign Post

by John Neagle

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On June 21, the future Justicialista (Peronist) government made public for the first time its preference that Saul Ubaldini step down as secretary general of the General Workers Confederation (CGT). President-elect Carlos Menem told reporters that Ubaldini was offered a labor attache post abroad, probably in Spain. However, said Menem, the CGT leader had not yet accepted. Unidentified sources close to the CGT told ADYN that Ubaldini will refuse any offer that would mean resigning as secretary general prior to the end of his tenure in September 1990. The sources said Menem would formally communicate his decision to Menem on June 22, following a meeting of the CGT executive council. Menem denied that the offer was aimed at replacing Ubaldini as head of the CGT. Recently, the CGT established a set of pre-conditions Ubaldini said Menem's administration must accept before the confederation accepts its proposed economic program. The new government's program is based in part on a "social pact" under which organized labor would agree not to launch strikes for a specified period. The CGT's 26 pre-conditions, including a moratorium on foreign debt payments, were rejected by Menem's aides. Carlos Menem will be inaugurated as president in early July. [Basic data from ADYN (Argentine newspaper collective), 06/21/89]

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