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John Neagle

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## **French President Mitterrand Visits Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela**

*by John Neagle*

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French President Francois Mitterrand's Latin America tour this week began with Venezuela on Oct. 9-10. In Caracas, bilateral accords in the following areas were signed: anti-drug abuse and trafficking efforts; customs and fiscal management technical assistance; technology transfer and establishment of joint ventures in several industries; and, blood transfusion research and techniques. Next, Mitterrand announced a \$500 million credit line for Venezuela. Venezuelan Mines and Energy Minister Celestino Armas told reporters on Oct. 10 that French businesspersons are exploring possibilities of investment in the nation's petroleum, petrochemical, gas and nickel industries. On Oct. 11, Mitterrand was met at the airport in Quito by President Rodrigo Borja and honored with a 21-gun salute. Mitterrand said upon arrival that he regretted not having visited Ecuador in any of his three previous visits to Latin America as French president, and paid tribute to the Ecuadoran democracy. Borja, a member of the Socialist International, as is his French guest, praised Mitterrand as "one of the most lucid and important statesmen of our times." In Colombia, government sources told reporters that Mitterrand and President Virgilio Barco would meet for one hour on Oct. 12. They said that details about when and where were not available. (Basic data from Xinhua, Notimex, 10/10/89; AFP, 10/11/89)

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