Coffee Producers Meet In Costa Rica

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On Nov. 20-21 in San Jose, Costa Rica, representatives of Latin American coffee producing nations met in hopes of formulating a common position aimed at stopping the price decline, and setting up preliminary terms for a new coffee agreement. Meanwhile, a similar meeting was underway among African coffee producers in Kampala. Latin American producers were reportedly considering a 10% production cutback. Participants from El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, and Mexico were in attendance, as well as representatives from India and Papua New Guinea. In Kampala, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni called for the immediate formation of an Organization of Coffee Exporting Countries (OCEC) to develop market power to maintain stability in the international coffee market. Museveni called for a 10% production cut toward preventing a further price decline on the world market. James Waphakhabulo, current chairman of the International Coffee Organization (ICO), who is also Uganda's cooperatives and marketing minister, said the one-week assembly would discuss common strategy to be adopted during the forthcoming negotiations for a new coffee agreement. (Basic data from AFP, 11/20/89)

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