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Entry Of Canada Into O.a.s. Considered Political & Economic Boost

by John Neagle

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Unidentified Organization of American States (OAS) diplomats cited by Notimex on Nov. 18 said that the entry of Canada would invigorate the OAS both economically and politically. The diplomats said that Canada's presence will somewhat temper what they called the organization's "original sin": the overwhelming influence of Washington. Canada's contribution to the general budget is to be levied in June 1990, when the OAS celebrates its 20th general assembly in Asuncion (Paraguay). This year's general assembly approved a \$60.6 million budget for 1990, compared to \$47 million approved for 1989. After the US, the largest contributors to the OAS are Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and Venezuela. The entry of Canada into the OAS will bring a proportionate reduction in other members' contributions. At present, Washington's contribution is \$40.07 million per year to the OAS general fund. However, the US is behind on payments to the OAS by a total of \$51.5 million. (Basic data from Notimex, 11/18/89)

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