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Mexico Considering Membership In Union Of Banana Exporting Countries (upeb)

by John Neagle

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Since August, the Mexican government has been considering membership in the Union of Banana Exporting Countries (UPEB). In statements to Notimex in Panama City, UPEB executive director Haroldo Rodas Melgar said Mexico's entry into the organization would contribute to the strengthening of Latin American integration. After a series of talks with officials in the Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources Secretariat (SARH), said Rodas, the Union is waiting for "the Mexican government's last word" on membership. According to Rodas, the recent withdrawal from the Union by Honduras was the result of "pressures by US banana transnationals." Honduran annual banana exports total about 54 million 18.14 kg. boxes. This year, Mexican banana exports are estimated at some 5 million boxes, and 1990 exports will total about 7 million boxes. Major importers are the US, West Germany and Japan. Mexico's annual per capita banana consumption is approximately 25 kg. (Basic data from Notimex, 12/13/89)

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