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John Neagle

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## **Andean Group Nations' Joint Data Transmission Effort To Become Operational In January 1990**

*by John Neagle*

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This weekend in Ecuador, the presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela will convene for a summit in Ecuador. Agenda items include finishing touches on the Association of Telecommunications Enterprises (ASETA), a joint effort established to increase efficiency of data transmission. ASETA is to become operational in January 1990. According to government sources, the Association consists of defining telecommunications links among the Andean nations for data transmission. The joint project is expected to reduce overall transmission costs by 20%, while also increasing the average speed of such transmissions by 20%. The five presidents will also discuss 44 separate projects recommended at their May 26 summit in Cartagena de India, Colombia. Described as "integration" proposals, the projects include the elimination and reduction of administrative and physical obstacles to intra-regional trade. (Basic data from Notimex, 12/13/89)

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