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Central American Nations Request More Oil At Concessionary Terms From Mexico & Venezuela

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Aug. 27 in Mexico, Honduran Foreign Minister Mario Carias told reporters that finance ministers from five Central American nations convened on Aug. 24 to commence talks with the Mexican and Venezuelan governments to boost oil shipments under terms similar to those contained in the San Jose Pact. Under the 1980 accord, the two oil exporting nations supply 130,000 barrels of crude per day to about a dozen Central American and Caribbean countries at preferential rates. Carias said the Gulf crisis and corresponding oil price hikes have had an immediate negative impact on the economies of the region, with the exception of oil producer Guatemala. Honduras, said the minister, imports \$100 million worth of oil per year. (Basic data from EFE, 08/27/90; AFP, 08/28/90)

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