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Costa Rica: Protocol For Future Negotiations On Free Trade Agreement With U.S.

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Sept. 25, Foreign Trade Minister Roberto Rojas told reporters that in October his government hopes to sign a protocol accord with Washington on future negotiations toward a free trade agreement. Similar accords have been completed with Mexico, Bolivia, Colombia and Ecuador. Among other topics to be negotiated at the same time, said Rojas, are cooperation in the Uruguay Round, and expansion of benefits under the US "Initiative for the Americas" for Caribbean Basin nations. US officials are expected to include discussion of intellectual property rights, resolving conflicts involving US investors, and privatization of Costa Rican banks. However, said Rojas, Costa Rica will not consider privatization of the banks, similar to Washington's refusal to discuss concessions regarding textiles. Costa Rican banks were nationalized 42 years ago. (Basic data from AFP, 09/25/90)

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