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Barbara Khol

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Peruvian Congress Fails To Authorize President's Trip To Caracas To Attend Rio Group Summit

by Barbara Khol

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On the evening of Oct. 10, the Peruvian Congress, in an unprecedented move, failed to authorize President Alberto Fujimori's trip to Caracas to participate in a Rio Group summit. Senate vice president Socialist Enrique Bernales described the development as "disgusting," and a sad portrayal of Peruvian politicians' "mediocrity." The congresspersons were caught up in a controversy surrounding the priority of dealing with the travel authorization or debating a supplemental credit to former president Alan Garcia's government. On the same day, Fujimori's government had approved the credit via a decree, interpreted by some politicians as a maneuver to sidestep the congress. The session lasted until after midnight for lack of a quorum, and a vote on the travel authorization did not occur. The incident marked the first time the Peruvian congress had failed to issue authorization for the president's travel, and the first time such request was made by Fujimori since he took power on July 28. (Basic data from EFE, 10/11/90)

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