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Argentine Government Opposed To E.e.c. Subsidy Cut Proposal

by Barbara Khol

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On Nov. 8 in Paris, deputy agriculture secretary Felipe Sola said the European Economic Community's proposal within Uruguay Round talks to cut agricultural subsidies by 30% in 10 years was completely inadequate. He added, "European agriculture is an artificial system that generates enormous (subsidized) stocks...to the detriment of countries which export without subsidy." Argentina is a member of the 13-nation "Cairns Group," comprised of the world's principal farm product exporters after the US and the EEC. Sola noted that the EEC proposal does nothing to facilitate access to European markets through removing protectionist barriers. In particular, he criticized the application of higher tariffs on cereal substitutes such as soybeans as "compensation" for reduced production subsidies. On an annual basis, Argentina and Brazil together export to the EEC \$2 billion worth of soybeans and other cereal substitutes used as livestock feed. (Basic data from AFP, 11/08/90)

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