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Chile Opposes E.e.c. Decision To Reduce Tariffs On Agricultural Products From Coca-producing Nations

by Barbara Khol

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On Nov. 27, Economy Minister Carlos Ominami told reporters that his government will challenge the European Economic Community's decision to reduce tariffs on agricultural imports from Latin American nations engaged in coca cultivation eradication efforts. He said that the measure, which favors Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Colombia, among others, was "discriminatory and unjust," considering that Chile has undertaken numerous efforts to liberalize foreign trade. According to estimates developed by the Chilean government, coca producer nations' agricultural products could sell for up to 20% less than Chilean goods. Local fruit and vegetable producers say their exports to Europe may decline by one million boxes in the 1990/91 season. (Basic data from AFP, 11/27/90)

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