

9-4-1991

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El Salvador: Inter-american Development Bank Approves \$33 Million Loan For Social Welfare Programs

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, September 4, 1991

In statements to reporters on Aug. 26, Carlos Binetti, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) representative in El Salvador, said a \$33 million loan will be released to the government in the near future. The loan is earmarked for infrastructure, social welfare and employment creation programs. Planning Minister Mirna Lievano said the IDB funds would be administered by the Social Investment Fund (FIS), created in 1990 to compensate for the impact of economic structural adjustment on the poor. FIS president Roberto Murray said that since May, the Fund had approved 93 projects worth over \$2 million. According to Murray, FIS education and nutrition projects served 27,000 children and 115,541 of the nation's poor. As of Jan. 1 this year, the Salvadoran government has received nearly \$160 million from the IDB for financing education programs, road construction in rural areas, and production investments. (Basic data from Inter Press Service, 08/26/91)

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