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Colombian &amp; Venezuelan Governments Conclude Five Accords On Border Projects

by Barbara Khol
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On April 14, Colombian and Venezuelan officials completed talks with an agreement to implement five projects dealing with border energy, transportation and customs issues. Formal signing of the accord is scheduled for May 7-10 when Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez meets with Colombian counterpart Cesar Gaviria in Bogota. The accord calls for opening borders for air cargo and passenger transport, the return of stolen vehicles, the joint construction of gas pipeline and electric projects, improvements in the highway system, and eliminating certain customs restrictions. The gas duct will link Lake Maracaibo, site of oil refining in Venezuela, and Colombia's Santander del Norte department. A highway project would link La Fria, Venezuela, and Cucuta, Colombia, and would provide for a bridge at Guajiar peninsula. Next, the accord includes telecommunications upgrades between the two countries, and construction of electricity linkages between the Colombian coast and Venezuela at a cost of $24 million. (Basic data from AFP, 04/14/91)

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