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Notes On Public Education In Latin America

by Barbara Khol

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On April 20 in Quito (Ecuador), 22 education ministers from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean convened to develop common strategies for the next decade to cope with problems afflicting public education throughout the region. UNESCO general administrator Federico Mayor participated in the meeting. At present, an estimated 71.4 million children between the ages of six and 11 are enrolled in primary schools in Latin America. About half of the school children live in conditions of extreme poverty, a principal factor explaining the region's extremely high primary school drop-out rate. UNESCO predicts that nearly 40 million Latin Americans over 15 years of age will be illiterate in the year 2000. [Basic data from Prensa Latina (Cuba), 04/20/91]

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