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Peru: More On Cancellation Of Soviet Company's Fishing Contract

by Barbara Khol
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On May 5, Fisheries Minister Felix Canal told reporters that the government would use all legal alternatives and international forums to collect a $20 million debt from the Soviet fishing enterprise SEVRIBA if the latter refuses to pay. Canal said the conflict which led to the cancellation of the fishing contract in no way signifies differences with the Soviet government. The minister also mentioned that the possibility exists of negotiating new fishing agreements with Cuba and Poland. On April 30, the Peruvian government cancelled an agreement signed in December 1988 on grounds that the Soviet partner had failed to meet contract terms. The agreement between SEVRIBA and the state-run Peruvian Fisheries Services Enterprise (Empresa Peruana de Servicios Pesqueros-EPSEP) authorized a 400,000 metric ton per annum fish catch in Peruvian territorial waters. Of the total catch, SEVRIBA was obligated to turn 17% over to EPSEP. Last week Canal said the Soviet company failed to deliver the specified proportion of the fish catch, or its sales value. (Basic data from EFE, 05/05/91)

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