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Brazil: Economy Minister Resigns, Triggering Reshuffling Of Economic Team

by Barbara Khol
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On May 8, Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello resigned, triggering a cabinet reshuffle. President Fernando Collor de Mello accepted Cardoso's resignation, and asked Brazilian ambassador to Washington, Marcilio Marques Moreira, to take over as head of the ministry. Infrastructure Minister Eduardo Teixeira, one of Cardoso's closest collaborators, turned in his resignation on May 9. The television network O Globo reported that Teixeira's resignation was accepted, and the president appointed administration secretary Joao Santana as his replacement. Next, economist Francisco Gross was appointed Central Bank governor, taking over from Ibrahim Eris. This appointment must be approved by the Senate. Also on Thursday, an International Monetary Fund technical mission left Brasilia. Mission chief Thomas Reichmann said the team would return when Marques Moreira is settled and requests a resumption of the mission's work in evaluating Brazil's economic performance. (Basic data from AFP, AP, EFE, 05/08/91, 05/09/91)

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