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Argentine Government Promotes Increased Imports Of Food, Medical Supplies & Automobiles

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On May 7 in a nationally televised address, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said tariffs will be reduced on food, medical supplies and automobile imports in an attempt to reduce inflation. A decree will be signed to facilitate medicine imports from countries with quality controls similar to Argentina's. The new law would also impose a new distribution system to ensure prices do not surpass those of neighboring Chile and Brazil. About 8,000 cars will be permitted to enter the country under reduced tariffs. Cavallo said that a larger number of food products will be permitted to enter the country in an effort to break domestic monopolies. "In the next few months we should generate a surplus of three trillion australes ($300 million) a month, which will be used to pay a reasonable amount of the interest on domestic and foreign debt," said Cavallo. (Basic data from AFP, 05/07/91)

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