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Talks Between Oil Producer & Consumer Nations Scheduled For July In Paris

by Barbara Khol

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At a May 11 press conference in Caracas (Venezuela), President Carlos Andres Perez said talks between a dozen oil producer and consumer nations will take place in July in Paris. He added, "In a few days, an announcement will be made about the meeting, promoted by France and Venezuela." Perez suggested that US President George Bush may send an observer. When asked about Bush's negative response to the Franco-Venezuelan idea during their last meeting, Perez noted that in September 1990, after he had proposed the initiative at the United Nations in light of the Gulf crisis, he presented the idea to Bush. But, he added, Bush rejected the dialogue in a three-page letter, emphasizing Washington's desire to allow market forces to determine oil prices and production, rather than reaching agreements to avoid dramatic oil price fluctuations as proposed by Paris and Caracas. Perez said he suggested that Bush send an informal observer to the dialogue when the two last met. During a visit to Caracas in mid-March, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said "a good number of countries" had signed on to the plan, including Germany, Italy, Norway, the Soviet Union and Mexico. (Basic data from AFP, 05/11/91)

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