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Peru: Political Parties Criticize Anti-drug Agreement With U.S.

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On May 19 in Lima, the opposition American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) party announced plans to introduce a bill in the national congress to annul an anti-drug agreement between the US and Peruvian governments. The accord was finalized May 14 in private, hours before President Alberto Fujimori delivered a speech to the legislature explaining its content. Politicians of the left and the right were furious. In a communiqué, the APRA national executive committee said the agreement authorized foreign imposition of a neo-liberal economic model that condemns the majority of Peruvians to greater impoverishment; violates constitutional provisions referring to government administration; and, militarizes the drug problem, leaving Peru open to the possibility of foreign military intervention. The accord with Washington, said the communiqué, represents a regression when compared to agreements by the presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and the US at the Cartagena summit in February 1990. At the summit, the US government pledged to economically support anti-drug efforts, and acknowledged co-responsibility for the drug problem. (Basic data from EFE, 05/19/91)

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