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Notes On Global Banana Exports

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On May 31, Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez told reporters that his government will support efforts to expand global trade in bananas at the 12th conference of the Inter-governmental Working Group on Bananas, scheduled to begin June 3 in Madeira (Portugal). Cordovez said several nations continue imposing high tariffs and quotas. According to the minister, Latin American governments are concerned over the possibility that the European Economic Community (EEC) market unification process will result in the continuity or intensification of protectionist barriers. Ecuador accounts for 25% of global banana exports, and the EEC is the world's largest banana importer, at nearly 3.2 million metric tons per year. Cordovez said world-wide banana exports increased 7% last year to nearly 9 million MT. Banana prices in the US were up 11% compared to 1989, and in Germany, 20%. (Basic data from EFE, 05/31/91)

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