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On Nov. 14, the Agence France-Presse cited Costa Rican businesspersons as saying that non-traditional exports from Costa Rica to the European Economic Community (EEC) will decline by over 50% in the short term unless a tariff reduction solicited by Central American governments is approved. The Costa Rican Exporters Chamber claims that contracts with EEC buyers have already dropped by 25% this year, result of inability to compete with preferential tariffs enjoyed by Andean Pact nations Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia. The EEC's special rates for the Andean nations constitute economic support while the former attempt to reduce narcotics production. In October, the European Community's Council of Ministers postponed evaluation of a request by Central American governments for equivalent preferential tariffs. The request for evaluation was based on a report by an EEC technical commission confirming significant export revenue losses by Central American nations resulting from preferential treatment given to the Andean Pact. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 11/14/91)

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