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Note On U.N. Development Programme Annual Report

by Barbara Khol

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On June 7, William Draper, UN Development Programme (UNDP) administrator, presented the agency's annual report to the UNDP administrative council. According to the report, income and wealth differences in Latin America were exacerbated during the 1980s. Structural adjustment programs, aimed at alleviating the foreign debt burden, aggravated living conditions among low-income households. For the 1990s, said Draper, "cautious optimism" is in order, but only if reforms are sustained and scarce resources available for development are effectively used. He mentioned that the return of political democracy to many Latin American societies has been accompanied by new hopes of improved living standards. The bulk of UNPD aid to Latin American nations in the past year, said Draper, centered on "social dimensions of economic adjustment," such as projects aimed at alleviating "critical" poverty, and improving living conditions for displaced persons. The UNDP also financed environmental preservation and clean-up, public sector administration and technology transfer programs. The UNDP budget for the 1992-1996 period totals $267.1 million, compared to $272.8 million for the 1987-1991 period. (Basic data from EFE, 06/07/91)

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