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Recommended Citation
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Category/Department: General
Published: Friday, January 10, 1992

On Jan. 6 in Managua, Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus and US Ambassador Harry Shlaudeman finalized a bilateral five-year "friendship and cooperation" agreement. According to Dreyfus, Washington had expressed support for the United Nations' description of the Nicaraguan economy as "exceptional." Consequently, he added, the US is committed to providing Nicaragua with special treatment in the areas of trade and finance. Dreyfus said that Nicaraguan exports will now enjoy greater access to the US market. In addition, the accord improves the foreign investment climate in Nicaragua and improves the government's bargaining position in negotiations with its international creditors. The accord will remain in effect for five years at which time it may be renewed for additional five year periods. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, Agence France-Presse, 01/06/92; Spanish news service EFE, 01/07/92)

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