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Inter-American Development Bank Financing for Technology Transfer Among Latin American Exporters

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As part of the "Bolivar Program" initiated by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez in October last year, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is financing technology transfer efforts among Latin American export companies. The IDB has earmarked $250 million for coordinating the centralization of technological research from the continent's 30 nations in the United Nations' pilot data bank located in Rome. In Brazil, the Sao Paulo State Industries Federation (Federacao de Industrias do Estado de Sao Paulo-FIESP) is responsible for implementation of the Bolivar Program. A first phase involves promoting research on fiber optics at the Universidade Federal de Sao Carlos. For the Brazilian commission, coordinated by businessperson Jose Mindlin, the IDB has systematized bio-technology projects being developed by Argentine, Brazilian and Costa Rican enterprises. IDB efforts are focused on providing access to technology previously beyond the reach of small- and medium-scale businesses. The Bolivar Program is to be officially launched next year in Venezuela. To the present, commissions have been established in Brazil, Argentina and Costa Rica, and preliminary work is underway in Chile, Mexico and Uruguay. (Basic data from EFE, 07/27/91)

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