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Bolivian Trade Institute: Membership In Andean Pact Common Market More Advantageous Than Mercosur

by Barbara Khol

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According to a report by the Mexican government's international news service Notimex (07/30/91), the Bolivian Trade Institute (IBC) has advised against membership in MERCOSUR (Southern Cone Common Market). MERCOSUR member-nation governments (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) expect the eventual inclusion of Bolivia and Chile. However, current MERCOSUR accords specify that new member-nations must relinquish membership in other regional common market arrangements. The IBC recommendation stated that Bolivia has greater competitive potential in trade with Andean Pact nations (Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela). Andean Pact members have also developed a series of agreements toward establishing a regional free trade zone.

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