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# Bolivia: On Government's Coca Eradication Program

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## **Bolivia: On Government's Coca Eradication Program**

*by Barbara Khol*

*Category/Department: General*

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On Sept. 12, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Mauro Bertero told reporters that the government plans to destroy 7,000 ha. of coca plantations and will provide compensation for growers who participate in voluntary eradication. The minister said talks to discuss the eradication program were underway between officials and campesino organization leaders. According to Bertero, the government has reached agreement with growers in the Chapare region, 650 km. east of La Paz, to halt the development of new coca plantations. Each farmer is to receive \$2,000 in compensation for every hectare of coca destroyed. The minister added, "But there will be no compensation for the eradication of new coca plantations, cultivated after issue of the decree." The government and peasant organisations have also agreed to avoid incidents of violence in the Chapare area, Bertero said. (Basic data from Inter Press Service, 09/12/91)

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