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Brazilian Government To Reestablish Price Controls

by Barbara Khol

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On Oct. 19, acting economy minister Luiz Antonio Gonzalez told reporters that the government plans to reestablish price controls on 53 basic food, hygiene and cleaning products. The daily newspaper Jornal do Brasil cited economists as saying that the controls will not produce a decline in the consumer price index since the 53 products contribute relatively little to the overall index. Moreover, they said, October inflation is largely the result of an average 15 to 23% increase in public service charges imposed by the government. [Basic data from AFP, 10/19/91; Jornal do Brasil (Rio de Janeiro), 10/21/91]

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