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El Salvador & Honduras Evaluate Project To Construct Interoceanic Highway

by Deborah Tyroler

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In July 1992, Costa Rican authorities began negotiations with five US firms for construction of an interoceanic railway which would compete with the Panama Canal. (For previous coverage of Costa Rican railway project see CAU 07/17/92.) According to an Oct. 2 report by the Reuter news service, El Salvador and Honduras are now evaluating the possibility of constructing their own "dry canal," an interoceanic highway through the two countries which would also be designed to compete with Panama Canal traffic. The highway would run from Puerto Cortes on the Honduran Atlantic coast to Acajutla on El Salvador's Pacific coast. According to those who support the project, the 322 km.-long highway would offer an advantage to freight shippers whose destinations include US-based ports since the route would be located significantly farther north, and thus closer to US ports, than the Panama Canal. The highway project was first proposed by Honduran President Rafael Callejas in 1990. (Source: Reuter, 10/02/92)

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