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Peruvian Government Rejects US\$34 Million In U.S. Aid For Coca Crop Reduction Effort

by Barbara Khol

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Late on Dec. 14 during a speech in Quimibiri, President Alberto Fujimori said his government cannot accept US\$34 million in US aid to support a coca eradication scheme. Quimibiri, in the Andean department of Ayacucho, is located in the coca-producing Apurimac River valley. Fujimori said, "We had to reject the US...donation because that money was to be channelled into harshly repressing the coca growers...We are not going to continue with that policy [of ending coca farming]. We have managed to convince those who believed we were in collusion with drug trafficking that coca-leaf growing is driven by the state of [economic] abandonment in which hundreds" of coca farmers find themselves. Fujimori said his administration continue, however, to make every effort to help coca leaf farmers participate in legal economic activities. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 12/15/91)

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