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Andean-u.s. Conference On Drugs

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On Jan. 14 in Santa Cruz (Bolivia), Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), chair of the House select committee for narcotics abuse and control, told participants at the second Andean-US inter-parliamentary conference on drugs that anti-drug efforts must be similar to the international cooperation obtained in the removal of Iraq from Kuwait. According to Rangel, the production and consumption of illegal drugs can be reduced only through an operation of such magnitude on all fronts. Conference participants included legislators from the US, Bolivian, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela. A joint statement issued at the end of the conference emphasized the need for concerted action against narcotics, promotion of incentive programs for crop substitution and alternative development programs, the need to strengthen regional trade agreements, government responsibility for prosecution and incarceration of persons guilty of drug- related crime, the need for advanced industrialized nations to regulate the production and export of chemicals and inputs used in narcotics processing, and the need for coordinating efforts to recover areas suffering ecological damage from cocaine production. (Sources: Notimex, Agence France-Presse, 01/14/92)

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