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B. A. Landy

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

B. A. LANDY
Attorney at Law
Miami, Florida

AGRICULTURE

The Agency for International Development has approved a loan of \$23 million to the Government of Guatemala to finance part of a joint five-year Alliance for Progress rural development program. The program is designed to improve the economic well-being and social welfare of the small farmer of the Guatemalan highlands. The loan, part of an overall \$143 million five-year plan for agricultural development in Guatemala, is expected to include contributions from the Inter-American Development Bank and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration.

The Inter-American Development Bank has announced the approval of two loans equivalent to \$3.6 million to help foster an agricultural development and diversification program in Trinidad and Tobago. The program is designed specifically to help Trinidad and Tobago overcome its heavy dependence on sugar cane by boosting the output of basic foods for local consumption. It is expected that 90 percent of the program beneficiaries will be those owning small farms, or holdings between 5 and 50 acres. The remaining 10 percent will be those whose farms average between 50 and 100 acres.

A new investment company with capital of \$15 million has been founded by 12 companies with Latin American interests. Known as the Latin American Agribusiness Development Corp. (LAAD), its objective will be to promote agricultural enterprises in Latin America for subsequent transfer to local shareholders. LAAD's policy will be to participate in joint capital entities with Latin American shareholders who are acquainted with local laws, politics, customs and other specific requirements. The new corporation hopes to increase production of food and boost rural income through adequate application, of capital investment. The investments will be undertaken with already existing companies and new ones which produce, process, distribute and sell farm products. The organizing shareholders are Adela Investment Co., Bank of America, Borden, Inc., Cargill Co., Caterpillar Tractor Co., Gerber Products Co., Monsanto Co., CPC International, Deere & Co., Dow Chemical Co., Ralston Purina Co., and Standard Fruit & Steamship Co.

Experts from the developing nations have been training to take a farm census sponsored by the U. N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The count, expected to take as long as four years, will entail visits to the smallest villages and communities.

CHEMICALS

ARGENTINA

Compañía Sud Americana Kreglinger has received a license from LNP Corp. for production and marketing of glass-fortified thermoplastic materials in Argentina. Kreglinger will build a plant for manufacture of glass-reinforced compounds from polymers produced in Argentina, including nylon, polystyrene and high-density polyethylene.

The decree enabling *Dow* to proceed with its plans for a petrochemical complex at Bahia Blanca in the Province of Buenos Aires has been signed. The project will result in the largest integrated complex in Latin America. 70% of the required capital investment (estimated at \$100 million) will be *Dow's* and Argentine governmental and private sources will provide the remaining 30%; furthermore, local and other foreign capital will participate in the production of specific intermediates.

BASF has broken ground for a \$10 million industrial chemical complex at Rosario, and a \$27.3-million gas extraction and ethylene plant is planned by *Cia. de Hidrocarburos*, Argentine subsidiary of Dynallectron (Washington, D.C.).

BOLIVIA

Bolivia's new government plans to develop a petrochemical industry and participate as an active member of the Andean Group petrochemical agreement despite a loss of foreign exchange reserves following Bolivian nationalization of Gulf Oil's \$150 million gas and oil operations. The government is trying to attract foreign interest in joint-venture petrochemical projects with the state.

BRAZIL

Union Carbide is spending \$60 to 65 million on a chemical complex to produce ethylene and acetylene by cracking hydrocarbons at Cubatao. The plant, due on stream in the spring of 1970, will be built by Fluor Corp.

A recent decree revokes the exemption from all federal, state and municipal taxes of raw materials for the petrochemical industry. The exemption will now only apply to import duties and the industrial products tax on raw materials and equipment for approved petrochemical projects.

Ultrajertil S.A., joint venture between Quimica "66" Ltd. (a Phillips associate), COTIL SA (of the Igel Group) and the International Finance Corp., has built a \$70 million fertilizer plant in Santos.

Dow Produtos Quimicos, Dow Chemical's subsidiary, in conjunction with Piramides Brasilia Industria e Comercio will build a new propylene oxide and propylene glycol plant at Santos at a cost of \$11 million. Dow will also have a small epoxy resin plant in the industrial area of Sao Paulo.

Poliolefinas S.A. will receive financial backing from International Finance Corp., National Distillers & Chemical, Petrobras Quimica SA and Unipar-Uniao de Industrias Petroquimicas SA of Brazil in financing a \$29 million, 60,000 metric ton/yr low density polyethylene plant to be built at Santo Andre by late 1971.

Consortio Paulista de Monomero Ltda. and Industrias Quimicas Electro Cloro SA have awarded vinyl chloride and PVC plant contracts valued at \$25 million for plants to be located in Sao Paulo; completion: mid-1971.

CHILE

Corfo reports plans are "progressing" for a joint-venture Chilean-Japanese chemical project in Chile. Ethylene chloride would be one of the projected products.

Following the signing of an agreement between *Corfo*, *Fundación para el Desarrollo* and the French group Ensa, a cellulose plant with installed capacity of 15,000 tons/yr is to be built at Constitución by 1973.

Cia. Chilena Aga, subsidiary of the Swedish firm Aga Svenska Gassacumulador, will set up a new plant in the industrial state at Rancagua to produce liquified oxygen, nitrogen and argon.

Cellulosa Constitución S.A. has awarded a \$50 million contract for construction of a 175,000 ton/yr cellulose plant, to be built at Constitución, to ENSA, the French engineering group. The plant, to be completed in 1972, will be one of the largest in the world.

COLOMBIA

Colminas and Pan-American Consulting International have signed a contract for the construction of a cost of 4.3 million pesos of a simple superphosphate plant at Ventaquemada, on the Bogota-Tunja highway, which will have a production capacity of 70,000 tons a year. The project is the first step under a program for the processing of Colombia's rock phosphate deposits, and the eventual production of phosphoric acid, triple superphosphate and other products.

EL SALVADOR

B. F. Goodrich (20%) and INSAFI, the Salvadorian Institute of Industrial Investment (20%) will begin construction of their joint venture polyvinyl (PVC) plant.

GUATEMALA

A fertilizer plant is to be established in Guatemala. The Mexican firm *Guanos y Fertilizantes de Mexico* is to contribute 50 per cent of the capital, and the rest will be raised locally.

MEXICO

Bayer, of Western Germany, has announced plans to install a plant in Tampico (Tamaulipas) next year at a cost of over 50 million pesos. Bayer already has a long-established laboratory in Mexico City.

BASF Mexicana S.A. will build a \$2.8 million dyestuffs plant at Santa Clara within the next 2 years and expand present capacity for 5.7 million lbs/yr of "Styropor."

CARIBBEAN

Sun Oil's new fertilizer complex, now under construction in Martinique and Guadeloupe, will produce 100,000 tons/yr of granulated fertilizer when completed. The operations will be carried out by Soc. Antillaise de Produits Chimiques (Saprochim), which will be owned 80% by Sun and 20% by residents of Martinique and Guadeloupe.

The Puerto Rican government has approved *C. D. Searles's* application for tax exempt status for a new pharmaceutical manufacturing subsidiary in Hato Rey.

Joseph Mueller, a Zurich-based firm has been awarded the contract

for construction of a petrochemical plant in the Netherlands Antilles. The plant will cost \$60 to 70 million, including port installations and other ancillary facilities.

COMMUNICATIONS

The first private commercial use of voice communication via space satellite between the U. S. and South America has been placed in operation by Braniff International. The airline announced that the new simultaneous voice-data circuit would be open on a continuous 24-hour basis between the switchboards of Braniff's operations and maintenance headquarters at Dallas Love Field and its South American control center at Callao International Airport near Lima, Peru.

Radio equipment at the Catholic University of Chile in Santiago enables a dialogue between scholars there and at the University of California at Berkeley. The radio equipment will allow a professor with data requiring verification to speak directly with researchers in the U. S. An immediate response should follow.

The four television channels in Buenos Aires and the 24 in the Argentine provinces will have to reduce the amount of advertising carried during every hour of programming. The current proportion of around 33 percent is likely to be cut back to 25 percent. The TV channels have already been hit by the decision of cigarette manufacturers to cease advertising in the medium.

EXPORT-IMPORTS

The Export-Import Bank and the Foreign Credit Insurance Association have announced major changes in the program of export insurance, with the aim of nearly tripling the volume of insurance issued in the next year. The program now about nine years old, covers both political and commercial risks involved in selling abroad. The changes include:

- 1) The offer of six new types of insurance policies.
- 2) Introduction of the "deductible" principle and other means of reducing premiums.
- 3) Establishment of branch offices and other servicing improvements of the Foreign Credit Insurance Association to speed action and reduce paperwork.

In March the Colombian Institute of Foreign Trade (INCOMEX) announced that, in view of Colombia's favorable balance of payments

position and general economic situation, it has extended the list of imports which do not require prior licensing. Until this extension, the list of imports which did not require prior licensing, known as the free list, included about 100 tariff items, mostly raw materials and capital goods. The new additions, which cover 51 tariff items, include principally automotive spare parts, additional raw materials and capital goods for industry, and scientific and medical equipment.

Cattle on the hoof and wool to the value of \$16 million, one tenth of Uruguay's total exports, is estimated to be crossing the frontier illegally into Brazil to take advantage of the higher buying prices ruling there. The Uruguayan authorities are worried by the loss of tax revenue and the loss of work for Uruguayan industries.

Uruguay is expected to find difficulty in exporting the 60,000 tons of rice for sale this year. Russian purchases have fallen because of cheap offers from the UAR, and Latin American buyers have shown preference for types cheaper than those now planted in Uruguay.

The Chilean Government announced in early January an import liberalization policy that will remove prohibitions on most items, including textiles, household appliances, bicycles, motorcycles, chemical products, plastics, cameras, and other consumer goods. However, prohibitions will remain on luxury items and goods from the automotive and electronic industries.

GAS AND OIL

The oil crisis in Bolivia, brought on by expropriation on October 17, 1969 of the holdings of Bolivian Gulf Oil Company, moved closer to settlement with the conclusion of agreements by Spanish, Bolivian and Argentine government representatives with the aid of World Bank delegates in La Paz. The agreements under which operation of the Bolivian oil industry would be managed by a Spanish company will go into force upon approval by the governments of Spain and Bolivia. Under the agreements, a new Spanish oil company CAMBA, S.A. will be set up in Bolivia to supervise Bolivia's national oil company YPFB. Bolivia will indemnify Gulf Oil for its investment although terms and amount of payment have not been disclosed. The World Bank will reinstate its credit line on a \$46.5 million loan to be used for construction of a gas separation plant and a natural gas pipeline from Bolivia to Argentina. CAMBA would, in addition to its management function, act as a financial intermediary making loans and idemnification payments out of oil and

gas revenue. Under the agreement, the principle of nationalization is confirmed and Spain agrees not to seek ownership or participation in the nationalized oil interests.

Compensation to Spain will be paid on a percentage of revenue from export of gas and oil products from Bolivia. The interested parties trust that these agreements will lay a basis for resumption of production and development of Bolivia's oil and gas industry. Resuscitating the now moribund export market is a prime consideration. It is expected that the major market for the low-sulphur content Bolivian oil will be the West Coast of the United States, as was the case prior to the nationalization of Bolivian Gulf's properties.

On February 20 President Nixon released the report of the Cabinet Task Force on Oil Import Controls. The President rejected, for the present, the proposals contained in the majority report which favored a hemispheric tariff plan by which the price of crude in the United States would be reduced by thirty cents a barrel. The minority report favored retention of the present quota system with some alteration and expansion. A decision on changing to the hemispheric tariff plan has been deferred pending Congressional hearings. The United States will also consult with the foreign governments affected by such a change, principally Mexico, Venezuela and Canada. A new committee, the Oil Policy Committee, headed by the Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness will keep the matter under study. Interim changes in oil import policy will be made under the current quota system.

The new law for mines and petroleum recently promulgated by the Colombian Congress provides that the national oil company, Ecopetrol, will be exempt from the general regime for petroleum concessions. The law provides in Article 12 that the Government may declare any area as part of the national reserve and grant it to Ecopetrol without application of the ordinary rules which regulate granting and contracting for petroleum concessions. While the system for granting concessions remains in force, the new law exhibits a definite preference for mixed operations between Ecopetrol and private oil companies similar to those held by Sinclair, Fennecol, Marathon and Pan-Ocean.

Colombia recently inaugurated an oil pipe line from Puerto Salgar to Cartago. The line is 150 miles long, reaches a height of 12,750 feet above sea level, and has a capacity of 20,000 barrels per day. It was constructed by PROTEXA, S.A. of Mexico and its unique feature is that it reduces the need for the transportation of oil via the Panama Canal.

The government of Panama has signed an agreement with two European companies to build a transisthmian pipeline with a projected final capacity of 700,000 barrels per day. IMEG of London and Thyssen of Germany will finance, build, supply and manage the pipeline which is expected to cost \$80 million. An Italian firm, Cia. Italiana Trans-Oceanica, has established a Panamanian subsidiary to handle the import of pipe and equipment for the line. The first section of the line, which will be the largest in Latin America upon completion, is scheduled for completion in 1972 and will have a capacity of 350,000 barrels per day. Principal use of the pipeline is the transportation of oil from the new Alaskan fields to the Atlantic since the Panama Canal cannot accommodate the large new supertankers.

The Argentine government and the Inter-American Development Bank have arranged for a \$20 million loan for construction of a pipeline from the gas fields in Nequen to Bahia Blanca.

Petrobras, the Brazilian state oil company has let a contract to Williams (Overseas) Ltd., a subsidiary of Williams Bros. Co., in joint venture with a Brazilian company, Companhia Metropolitana de Construcoes, to build a 75 mile, 24-inch crude oil pipeline from San Sebastiao to Paulinia. The line will transport crude oil from the new supertanker terminal at San Sebastiao to Paulinia where a new state refinery is scheduled to go on stream in 1972.

The Ecuadorean government has signed an agreement with the U.S. company Bradco Pacific Oil on prospection and production rights for coastal areas in the provinces of Manabi, Esmeraldas and in Pichincha.

Peru's state owned oil company, Petroleras de Peru (PETROPERU), has awarded a contract to two Japanese firms to double the 20,000 barrels per day capacity of the refinery at La Pampilla.

The state oil companies of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Uruguay and Venezuela were the guests of Petroperu, during the meeting of Asistencia Recíproca Petrolera Estatal Latinoamericana (ARPEL) in Lima.

Belco, Petrolera del Pacifico and Sullana are to join in building an oil pipeline from Peña Negra and the Peruvian port of Lobitos to Punta Parinas. The cost of the project is estimated at 35 million soles.

At press time for this issue of the *Lawyer of the Americas* the fate of Venezuela's service contracts was still in doubt. These contracts have been proposed to replace the present system of concessions so as to give

the Government a decisive voice in all facets of the industry and a larger participation in the revenues.

General Dynamics Corporation of the United States has proposed the use of nuclear powered submarine tankers to transport Alaskan oil to an ice free port in Greenland where transshipment would be made to conventional tankers. General Dynamics highlighted the practicality of the operation which would be carried out in submarines with an oil carrying capacity of 1.2 million barrels. The proposal was submitted to Standard Oil of New Jersey and California, Mobil Oil, Atlantic Richfield and Phillips.

HOUSING

A loan guaranty for \$10 million for long-term mortgage financing of housing projects in five Central American countries was signed on March 25 at the Agency for International Development in Washington. Under the agreement, AID will guarantee repayment of up to \$10 million to two private U. S. banking institutions which will provide the funds to the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI). The U. S. banks are the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston and the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York. It is expected that 1800 to 2000 mortgages will be financed and that more than 10,000 individuals will benefit in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. The dwellings are to be sold to middle-income families.

LAND TRANSPORTATION

The World Bank has approved a loan equivalent to \$6 million to Paraguay to assist in financing a four-year highway maintenance program. Since 1950, the Paraguay road network has been expanded nearly eightfold to its present length of 3,900 miles. The Bank has also approved a loan of \$100 million for the construction of over 5,000 miles of high priority roads in Brazil, and one of \$15.7 million for a 35-mile road section in Costa Rica which will provide the first all-weather highway between the country's capital and Limon on the Atlantic Coast.

The following is contemplated in connection with the Pan American Highway: Improvement of a 131-mile section in Colombia (\$15.2 million); relocation of a section of the Highway in Venezuela between Barquisimetro and Puente Torres (\$10 million app.); appropriation of \$100 million by the U. S. Congress to close the Darien Gap between Panama and Colombia; black-topping the last stretch of the Highway in Guate-

mala which, upon completion, will be paved along its whole length in the country.

Construction of the Chilean sector of the six-nation "Camino del Inca" highway project will get under way shortly, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Public Works. Termed by Public Works officials "an important step in Latin American economic integration", the road will go through Venezuela, Guyana, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru and Chile. In the latter country it will cross the provinces of Tarapaca, Antofagasta and Atacama, right through the heart of scenic Atacama desert. The Chilean segment will cost approximately \$1.5 million. Chilean economists estimate its operation will save Chile around \$3.5 million per year. At Chile's invitation, Argentine President Onganía joined President Frei in the inauguration of a highway joining the Chilean seaport of Valparaiso with the Argentine city of Mendoza across the Andes mountains.

The Ministry of Public Works is planning to go ahead with preliminary work on the first five miles of the Caracas subway project. The first section will cost about \$115 million, \$65 million of which will be for civil construction and \$50 million for equipment. The consultants are Parsons Brinkerhoff-Tudor-Bechtel, of San Francisco. Service is expected to begin in 1973.

MARITIME AFFAIRS

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has loaned Argentina the equivalent of \$25.5 million to help build a 32-mile long river channel for ocean-going vessels and river ships between Buenos Aires and ports on the Parana River. The project also provides for improvements in the ports of Rosario and San Pedro and the installation of route markers along the Parana River as far as Rosario.

The construction of the new port of Belem is considered by Brazil's Ministry of Transportation as one of the government's highest priority undertakings in the State of Para. Feasibility studies were recently completed, and the place selected for the new port is Caratateua, at Outeiro Island, some 10 miles from the center of Belem. It is expected that Belem will be the natural, and more economic, port for incoming and outgoing cargo not only for Para but for Brasilia, Goias, and possibly Minas Gerais.

The five member nations of the Andean Group are studying the creation of a joint merchant marine. Representatives of Bolivia, Colom-

bia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru were scheduled to meet in Guayaquil in May to discuss the project.

METALS AND MINERALS

The Bolivian government has decreed that all profits from the Matilde mine should be reserved for a project to build a zinc smelter with a capacity of 50,000 tons. The contract for building the plant is expected to go to a West German firm which is putting up a tin refinery in Vinto, Oruro. In another decree the government ordered that the state smelting concern ENAF must, in the future, be given first offer of any tin mined in Bolivia.

The Peruvian Ministry of Mines and Power is shortly to call for bids for the construction in the Lima department of a \$40 million refinery to produce zinc and sulphate of ammonia.

Toho Zinc Co. and Marubeni-Iida Co., of Japan have announced the signing of a contract with Compañía de Madrigal to underwrite a \$6.5 million loan for the development of three mine lots of that company's Madrigal mine in Peru. The Compañía de Madrigal is a Peruvian subsidiary of the Homestake Mining Co. of San Francisco.

The Japanese companies Ataka and Mitsubishi are to construct an iron ore concentrator at Chanaral in northern Chile to process ore from the Santa Clara field. The concentrator, which will export through new port facilities in Flamenco Bay, will contain one of the largest transporter belts in the world. It will also permit the exploitation of low grade ore in the area.

According to reports from Johannesburg, South Africa mining interests are examining the feasibility of exploiting manganese, gold, silver and copper deposits in the Aguas de Dionisio region of the Argentina province of Catamarca.

The Chilean state development corporation CORFO is to spend \$8 million this year on work on the Maria Soledad copper deposit at Domeyko in the province of Atacama. Mining will be opencast and the ore is reported to have a similar metal content to Chuquicamata and El Salvador ores. CORFO will also spend 20 million *escudos* on the iron ore deposits at Boqueron Chanar, also in Atacama.

MONEY AND BANKING

Mexico and the United States have announced a two-year extension,

to December 31, 1971, of the current stabilization arrangement between the U. S. Treasury and the Bank of Mexico. This facility enables either country to borrow up to \$100 million of the other's currency to maintain prices of its own currency in foreign exchange markets. A forerunner of this currency stabilization agreement was negotiated for the first time in 1941, and arrangements between the two countries have been in effect continuously since that time. In December, 1967, the agreement was amended, and the ceiling for the reciprocal transactions which may be effected under it was raised from \$75 million to the equivalent of \$100 million. Both the United States and Mexico have drawn under this agreement.

An agreement establishing a \$50 million Caribbean Development Bank was ratified in late January, 1970, by thirteen Caribbean territories, Britain and Canada. The main objective of the bank is to contribute to the harmonious economic growth and development of the member countries in the Caribbean and promote economic cooperation and integration among them, having special and urgent regard to the needs of the less-developed members of the region.

Workers' Banks are active in Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Honduras, Argentina and Venezuela. Objectives of these specialized institutions are to encourage systematic savings, facilitate the extension of loans for vital needs, extend loans to craftsmen and small businesses, aid and stimulate cooperative enterprises, and promote the creation of new sources of work. To date there have been three meetings bringing together experts from the OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank and officials of individual banks. The next meeting is scheduled for Guatemala later this year.

A new banking law was passed by the Legislature of El Salvador, but it was vetoed by the President.

The Central Bank of Argentina has ruled that the establishment of foreign banks in the country will in the future be conditioned to improved foreign financial and commercial relations. Foreign banks must actually and permanently invest in the country the capital assigned to local subsidiaries which will be subject to Argentine laws and courts. The new regulations were apparently promulgated to curb a drain on the foreign exchange reserves by foreign banks and financial firms.

The Export-Import Bank has announced the authorization of five relending credits totaling \$14.5 million to five banks in Brazil. Each of the credits is intended to be lent by the borrowing banks to small and

medium-sized industries in varying amounts for the purchase of selected categories of U. S. machinery and equipment.

A new government-owned bank has been established in Trinidad through the purchase of the local branch of the Bank of London and Montreal. Negotiations are under way between the Ministry of Finance and the owners of the Bank of London and Montreal (Trinidad) to reach agreement on the price to be paid by the Government for the bank's assets. The Post Office Savings Bank will provide branches for the new bank, and the Government and all statutory boards in the country will have to do business with it.

The World Bank has made its first loans to development finance companies in Brazil. A loan of \$25 million will contribute to industrial development in Northeast Brazil where the Banco de Nordeste do Brasil, S. A. (BNB) serves as a development bank in addition to its commercial functions. It is the only source of long-term financing for the average industrialist in the Northeast. Despite the steady expansion of its industrial lending, an increasing backlog of loan applications indicates that BNB has not been able to keep pace with the demand in recent years. The World Bank loan will provide BNB with the foreign currency it will need over the next two years for loans to and investments in private industrial firms in the Northeast. Additionally, BNB is making arrangements to obtain additional long-term *cruzeiro* funds for its industrial lending program.

The Colombian government is studying the abolition of the so called "petroleum dollar", the rate of exchange decreed for the import of petroleum products. Thus the last trace of multiple exchange rates would be done away with. The old rate is reported to be due for abolition in three successive stages over a period of months.

MUTUAL FUNDS

The Mexican Bankers Association has asked the Mexican Treasury Department to prohibit the operation of foreign-based mutual funds in the country. The association charged that the mutual funds, especially those established in such tax havens as the Bahamas, represent an illegal competition for Mexican banks.

Brazil's Central Bank Resolution 131 of February, 1970 provides that the formation of Mutual Investment Funds will only be granted when prior authorization is obtained from the Central Bank. Also the

constitution of new mutual funds is prohibited pending instructions from the Central Bank.

TOURISM

A strong boost to tourism in southern Chile is expected from the opening of a new casino at Puerto Varas on Lake Llanquihe. A quarter of the profits from the municipally owned casino will be set aside for the construction of a road to link the town to Bariloche in Argentina.

The Mexican government is embarking on a long term plan to attract more foreign tourists to the northern border region and persuade them to stay longer by bettering the infrastructure and hotel accommodations. The money will come from a large loan from the Inter-American Development Bank and from government sources. One million pesos are to be spent on a program of renovation of 31 airports. Training for personnel in the hotel trade is to be improved and 5,061 new hotel rooms are to be constructed in the North Pacific region.

Ecuador has launched an "Immediate Plan of Tourism Development" to sell the foreign visitor on the country's unspoiled and little-known beaches and mountains, ancient ruins and colonial monuments, Indian lore and craft, and the eastern jungles.

Construction of Ecuador's first modern tourist complex is under way following the signing in Quito of a contract by the international real estate firm, Previews, Inc. The extensive tourist resort will be built at a cost of several million dollars on a 2500-acre tract, with four miles of beach, midway between the towns of Ayangué and Palmar, on the Bay of Ayangué, 80 miles from Guayaquil.

A National Tourism Council has replaced the old General Direction of Tourism in Paraguay. Representatives of the Department of the Interior, Foreign Relations, Industry and Commerce and Finance, and of the Paraguayan Hotel and Catering Association, the Association of Travel Agencies and the Federation of Motorists will attend council meetings.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

The Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America (AACCLA), organized in Caracas in 1967, has established an office in Washington, D.C. AACCLA endeavors, through the development

of coordinated projects to assist in enlarging the participation of private enterprise in the economic and social progress of Latin America.

A new organization, the International Center for Economic Information (CIDIE), has been established to serve business and economic planners concerned with the conduct of business in Argentina. The Center, which began operations on April 1 in Buenos Aires, was created through the cooperative efforts of the National Industrial Conference Board and the Latin American Economic Research Foundation of Buenos Aires. It will assemble from both private and public sources all of the data that have a significant bearing on the business and economic environment in Argentina. Information is available from: National Industrial Conference Board, 845 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

The Mexican Department of Tourism has started a campaign to "Latinize" the names of business concerns doing business in Mexico. The Director of Tourism stated that the drive intends to defend Mexican customs, preserve the Spanish language and benefit tourists.