The INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (IDA), the WORLD BANK's soft-loan affiliate, has approved a $3 million credit to support a rural development project in the provinces of Omasuyos and Los Andes, in western Bolivia. Under the project, credit will be extended to about 2,500 small farmers for investment in livestock, corrals, sheds, silos, pumps, and wells, and for the purchase of tools and equipment. Co-financing for this $9.3 million project is being provided by the International Fund for Agricultural Development in the amount of $4 million. The Government of Bolivia is providing $2.2 million, and project beneficiaries are contributing an additional $100,000. (Refer to IDA News Release No. 79/97)

A $7.5 million credit to provide financial, technical and management support to the National Mineral Exploration Fund of Bolivia, has been approved by IDA. This fund is the first of its kind to be supported by the WORLD BANK and will initially concentrate on financing exploration projects for privately owned small- and medium-sized mining enterprises, which account for about 36% of the country's mineral production. The fund will also provide financing to the Bolivian Mining Corporation (COMIBOL), the state mining company, which accounts for 64% of Bolivia's mineral exports. (Refer to IDA News Release No. 79/104)

IDA has approved a $9 million credit to Bolivia to support the expansion of the water supply and sewerage system of the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra. With an estimated total cost of $17.3 million, the project is expected to provide public water supply to about 108,000 people and improve existing service to about 22,000 people. Sewerage services will be provided to about 66,000 inhabitants. The project will also improve the management, organization, and planning capacity of the Servicios de Agua Potable y Alcantarillado de Santa Cruz (SAGUAPAC). (Refer to IDA News Release No. 80/3)

Among those present at the signing of the credit documents on June 27, 1979, were, seated from left to right: Mr. Alberto Sola, Executive Director of WORLD BANK/IDA for Bolivia; His Excellency Roberto Arce, Ambassador of Bolivia to the United States; Mr. Nicolás Ardito Barletta, Regional Vice President, Latin America and the Caribbean, WORLD BANK/IDA; Mr. Armando de Urioste, Minister Counselor, Embassy of Bolivia; and Mr. Miguel Zalles, Economic Counselor, Embassy of Bolivia.

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