

Investigation ordered into CONICET funds

THE NATIONAL Comptroller has produced a ruling ordering an investigation into the handling of the National Council for Scientific and Technical Investigations (CONICET's) funds.

On August 26 the comptroller requested a probe to determine whether existing legislation allows the CONICET's board of directors to convert public funds into private assets.

The ruling pointed out "the existence of donations

made by the council to various institutions, involving commodities purchased with funds coming from subsidies granted to CONICET".

It also said court proceedings would be initiated to study "irregularities" in the handling of the funds corresponding to a grant from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), as a recent auditorship showed that the two grants, totalling \$a 71,500, granted to the National Limnology Institute (INALIA) in 1981 have not yet been accounted for.

The ruling requested a separate report "on the origin of the funds used to make extraordinary payments to CONICET staff," and ordered the suspension of such payments from subsidy funds. (NA)