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Erika Harding

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by Erika Harding

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In statements to reporters Nov. 3, Health Minister Victor Paredes called a cut in the Ministry's budget to fight epidemics "unjustified and inopportune." The Economy Ministry, according to the official gazette Andina, cut the allocation from three million soles per month (about US$2 million) to two million soles (about US$1.3 million) per month in July. The October allocation was further reduced to only 1.8 million soles (US$1.2 million). Paredes said he will request an explanation of the move from Finance and Economy Minister Carlos Bolona, "because the budget cut specifically affects the government's fight against cholera." According to Paredes, an additional 164 cholera cases were confirmed during the previous week. Of these, 86 required hospitalization. To date, cholera has killed 3,043 people in Peru and infected over 300,000. (Source: Spanish news service EFE, 11/03/92; Agence France-Presse, 11/06/92)

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