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Guatemalan Government Closes Tv Station

by Deborah Tyroler

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On May 19, the Guatemalan government closed down a television station (channel 3) on grounds that it had broadcast "material dangerous for state security." Max Kestler Farnes, president of the station, read a letter over the air Thursday from the government's National Radio and Television Department that said the station would be closed "until further notice." On May 20, Enrique Harnandez, acting director of the department, confirmed that he had signed and sent the letter. Mario David Garcia, news director for the station, is one of five civilians charged in promoting and financing the May 11 coup attempt. He was a presidential candidate of the rightwing Authentic National Center in the 1985 elections won by President Vinicio Cerezo, a Christian Democrat. Two weeks before the attempted coup, Garcia read on the air a statement that said the political process "has been betrayed by a corrupt clique of communists, military leaders and Christian Democrats." (Basic data from AP, 05/21/88)

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