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State Department Says Panamanian Government Rigging Election

by Deborah Tyroer
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State Department spokesperson Richard A. Boucher told reporters in Washington on April 20 that the Panamanian government had adopted numerous steps to insure victory for supporters of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega in the May 7 election. According to the Department, the regime was manipulating voter registration rolls to deny the vote to opponents and to permit multiple balloting by Noriega supporters. Next, Boucher said the government was intimidating opposition candidates, attempting to coerce public employees to support Noriega friends in the election, and putting severe limits on the number of international observers to be permitted to monitor the election. (Basic data from New York Times, 04/21/89)

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