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The Mexican government has become the target of intense criticism by many in the country's intellectual establishment and political opposition, result of joining the US and 18 other member-nations of the Organization of American States (OAS) on May 17 in condemning Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega for his "grave abuses." Critics say the government's vote at the OAS and an earlier communique on Panama constituted betrayals of long-honored principles of Mexican foreign policy, especially that of non-intervention. On June 5, for instance, Foreign Minister Fernando Solana's office was occupied by 17 federal deputies and members of the Socialist Popular Party (PPS). The occupation was organized to request that the government "reconsider its position" on Panama as expressed in its support for the May 17 OAS resolution. Historian and political commentator Lorenzo Meyer said Mexico has "much to lose and little or nothing to gain" by aligning itself with the US on the Panama question, and "modernizing the concept of nonintervention." Jorge G. Castaneda, co-author of "Limits of Friendship: the United States and Mexico," has described Mexican policy as "catastrophically disastrous" in a recently published essay in the country's leading news magazine. These criticisms in Mexico and in other Latin American countries are an indication of the domestic political pressures that will make it difficult for Latin American leaders to act against Noriega through the OAS. After the OAS vote on May 17, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said the decision marked "the inauguration of new relations between the United States and the rest of the continent." Since then, Perez has come under attack at home by critics who charge that he is acting as a point man for the Bush administration policy to obtain more favorable US treatment of Venezuela's foreign debt problem. The same accusation has been voice against Presidents Alan Garcia of Peru, and Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico. Many Latin American politicians are concerned that the condemnation of Panama's electoral debacle and with this, Noriega, could establish a precedent for judgments of other countries in the region. Several governments that supported the Panama resolution, including Mexico, have made it clear they are not willing to do the same in the case of Nicaragua. The Bush administration is already criticizing Nicaragua's election scheduled for February 1990. According to Adolfo Aguilar Zinser, a fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, by trying to involve Latin America in deposing Noriega, the Bush administration has also put the OAS itself in a "moral predicament." If the OAS fails to take further action against Noriega (Panama), he predicted, Washington will cut its budget "and let it die of starvation." (Basic data from Notimex, 06/06/89; New York Times, 06/04/89)