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Panama: Foreign Correspondent Fined For Distributing False Information On Noriega Contacts To Negotiate Departure

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

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On Aug. 2, the Panamanian Interior Ministry reported that UPI correspondent Elizabeth Lordan was fined \$1,500 for distributing "false information" in a news story dispatched July 22. Specifically, the erroneous information cited by the Ministry referred to "telephone conversations between high officials of the US and Panamanian governments." Lordan told colleagues that she had merely reproduced reports published July 20 in Washington saying that Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega had called a State Department official to negotiate his departure. The Department denied the report on the following day. (Basic data from Xinhua, 08/03/89)

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