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President Bush Says He Does Not Rule Out Possibility Of Kidnapping Panamanian Gen. Noriega

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Aug. 15 in Washington, President Bush said he had not ruled out the possibility of kidnapping Panamanian Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega and forcing him to stand trial on drug charges. In February 1988, Noriega was indicted by two grand juries in Florida on drug trafficking charges. In response to a question on Noriega, the president said, "I have an obligation to bring people to justice. I'm not holding my breath on his voluntary departure." Bush noted that US agents had kidnapped Fawaz Younis, a Lebanese citizen who was lured aboard a US yacht in the Mediterranean and then brought to the US to face trial for his role in the 1985 hijacking of a Jordanian civil aircraft and the taking hostage of its 70 passengers and crew members. (Basic data from AFP, 08/15/89)

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