

8-18-1989

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Panama: Report On Dialogue, Oas Mission

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Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, August 18, 1989

After a two-week break, dialogue resumed Aug. 14 among representatives of political opposition parties, pro- government parties, the government and the military. The principal objective of the dialogue is to develop an arrangement that would permit a "transfer" of political power on Sept. 1, or the end of the current presidential term under Panama's constitution. Organization of American States Secretary General Joao Baena Soares arrived in Panama Aug. 16. Soares had scheduled a meeting with the OAS team comprised of three foreign ministers to discuss an assessment of the team's mission. In Quito, before boarding a plane for Panama, member of the OAS mission, Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez, called on the US and Panama to normalize relations. He also suggested that Washington lift its economic embargo against Panama, and cease military exercises in that country. The talks were suspended Aug. 17, when political opposition parties demanded that the regime cease human rights violations and respect freedom of speech. (Basic data from Xinhua, AFP, 08/17/89)

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