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## **Panamanian Gen. Noriega Says He Will Not Yield To U.S. Pressure**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

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On the evening of Aug. 10, Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega said his regime will not yield to US pressure that he quit as Panama's Defense Forces chief. Referring to opposition leaders, he said, "Panama will not bow to the law of force that those barbarians from the North, their lackeys and tame politicians are trying to impose on it." Addressing a group of about 20 retired military officers, Noriega reiterated accusations that the US wants to replace him with a "docile" government to elude treaty obligations to turn the Panama Canal over to Panama. "You," Noriega said pointing at the retired officers, "are front-row witnesses of the aggressive and arrogant policies of the United States towards Panama." The group of officers calls itself the executive committee of the Organization of Military Men for Democracy, Integration and the Liberation of Latin American and the Caribbean. (Basic data from AP, 08/11/89)

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