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by Deborah Tyroler
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On Sept. 26, Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Taizo Watanabe said the government had refused a Nicaraguan request for election financing assistance. The refusal was delivered, he said, at a meeting in Tokyo last week between Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama and Nicaragua's top official for foreign cooperation, Henry Ruiz. Watanabe said the government prefers to make "unusual" contributions under United Nations auspices. For instance, he said, in August Japan contributed $2.5 million to the UN peacekeeping fund. Monies from this fund, he added, will finance the UN's election observer team in Nicaragua. In addition, said Watanabe, Japan has expressed its willingness to participate in the UN electoral observer mission. [Basic data from Kyodo (Japan), 09/26/89]

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