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Japan Rejects U.S. Request To Contribute Money To Nicaraguan Opposition Coalition

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Sept. 28, the Japanese Foreign Ministry announced that the Liberal Democratic Party of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu rejected a request from Secretary of State James Baker that it contribute money to the Nicaraguan Opposition Union (UNO). The request was conveyed by Baker to Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama at the United Nations during the week. According to news accounts in Tokyo, party secretary general Ichiro Ozawa reacted to the request with surprise and some disdain. He reportedly said that the idea of supporting one party in another country's election was "impossible." Japanese law prohibits foreign contributions to political parties in Japan. (Basic data from AFP, 09/28/89; New York Times, 09/29/89)

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