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Notes On Salvadoran President Cristiani's Fiscal 1990 Budget Request

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Budget Request

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Last week, President Alfredo Cristiani’s submitted his budget request for fiscal year 1990 to the National Assembly for approval. Of the total 4.256 billion colones ($851.4 million), 26% or 1.118 billion colones ($223.5 million) are earmarked for the Defense and Public Security Ministries. Spending approved for the current fiscal year allocated to the two ministers totaled 987 million colones. Funds shifted from other budget lines during the year increased de facto spending for defense and public security to 1.146 billion colones ($229 million). Cristiani’s budget request includes 84.5 million colones ($17 million) for the Interior Ministry. Interior, defense and public security together account for 28% of the fiscal 1990 budget. The budget request includes 707 million colones ($141.4 million) for the Education Ministry, and 377 million colones ($75.4 million) for the Public Health Ministry. Next, 13.5% of the total is earmarked for payments on the government’s debt; and only 7.4% for capital investments. The proposed budget is the largest of El Salvador’s history. Cristiani and his party, the National Republican Alliance, as well as a majority of private sector spokespersons, asserted in the last year of former President Jose Napoleon Duarte’s tenure that "excessive" government spending was the principal cause of the country’s economic crisis. (From 10/10/89 weekly summary by FMLN's Centro de Documentacion e Investigacion)

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