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Gen. Noriega Advises Panamanians To Be Prepared

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Oct. 10, Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega accused the US of trying to keep its forces in Panama to maintain control over Latin America. He said Panama must be prepared "because they cannot catch us by surprise again, and even if the commander falls, the people will not fall." Noriega said the US government's intention was not just to eliminate him, "but to install in power the enemies of the people." Noriega's comments were delivered in a speech at the People's Power assembly in Panama City. The assembly is comprised of precinct representatives appointed by the government to act as a legislative body. This body replaces the National Assembly, abolished when the provisional government of President Francisco Rodriguez was installed on Sept. 1. (Basic data from AP, 10/12/89)

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