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U.S. Plans For Panama Canal Board Of Directors Meeting In Florida Described As Illegal

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Oct. 22 in Panama City, Tomas Altamirano the Panamanian due to become chief canal administrator in January told reporters that US plans to convene a special session of the Canal board of directors in Tampa, Fla., on Oct. 23, are illegal. Altamirano said Washington was "violating the letter and spirit" of the 1977 treaty. The board of directors comprised of five US citizens and four Panamanians convenes four times a year. Under the treaty, in January 1990 Panama is to have a majority on the board, and a Panamanian is to become chief administrator. Altamirano did not say if the Panamanians would attend the special session. (Basic data from AFP, 10/22/89)

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