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## **Honduras Protests U.S. Meddling In Domestic Affairs**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Nov. 9, Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo submitted a formal protest to Washington against US interference in Honduran domestic affairs. The protest was inspired by complaints concerning arrangements for that country's Nov. 26 elections by Crescencio Arcos, US Deputy Secretary of State for Central American Affairs, who is awaiting confirmation of his appointment as US ambassador in Honduras. Arcos reportedly made a telephone call Honduran Ambassador to the US, Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, asserting stating Washington's concerns regarding plans by the Honduran ruling party to require additional identification by voters in the election would ensure that "the elections will be held without guarantees." The Liberal Party is apparently attempting to implement the issue of a yellow identification badge by the National Elections Council. Voters would be required to present both the badge and an identification card in order to cast their ballots. According to unidentified sources cited by Xinhua, the Honduran military is opposed to the badge scheme. Azcona said "internal affairs should be handled by Hondurans," and that he had instructed Hernandez to ignore such complaints. (Basic data from Xinhua, 11/09/89)

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