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Colombia: Five Ministers Resign

by John Neagle

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On Oct. 2, President Virgilio Barco acknowledged that five cabinet ministers have recently turned in their resignations. The cabinet portfolios are justice, development, communications, education, and interior. Communications Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds has been acting justice minister since the resignation of Monica de Greiff. Lemos will be appointed Interior Minister, replacing Orlando Vasquez Velasquez. Development Minister Carlos Alberto Marulanda resigned after an expose published by opposition newspaper El Siglo. The newspaper reported that Marulanda had a ranch he owns reassessed from $1 million to $1.8 million. The former minister's objective, said El Siglo, was to obtain more money from a projected sale of the ranch to the government's agrarian reform agency. (Basic data from Notimex, 10/02/89)

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