10-26-1989

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U.S. Pays $65 Million To U.N. Of $216 Million 1989 Dues

by John Neagle

Category/Department: General

Published: Thursday, October 26, 1989

On Oct. 25, US ambassador to the United Nations, Thomas Pickering delivered a check for $65 million to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, less than one-third of its $216 million dues for 1989. In mid-October, Perez de Cuellar said that the UN had only $68 million in its General Fund, barely enough to meet expenses through the end of the month. Prior to Oct. 25, the US owed more than $495 million in arrears to the regular budget and $200 million more for peacekeeping activities. Washington's arrears account for about 80% of all UN member-nations' arrears. The UN's annual budget is about $776 million. In September 1988, President Reagan announced he was pleased with the UN's progress toward budget reform, staff cutbacks and a new spirit of consensus and cooperation. US congressional subcommittees have given preliminary approval for payment of $205.5 million toward the full 1990 fiscal year assessment of $216 million. However, they have rejected State Department requests for $46 million more to pay some of the arrears, citing financial constraints imposed by the federal budget deficit. (Basic data from AP, Xinhua, 10/25/89)

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