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Deborah Tyroler

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## **Panama: Opposition Party Official On U.S. Army Actions**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On March 9, Mitch Doenz, member of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) political commission, told reporters that the US Army continues to occupy certain areas of the country, and is mobilizing troops throughout the country at will. Meanwhile, he said, the real control of political and administrative affairs of the Panamanian government is in the hands of the US Southern Command. He provided a list of names of US Army officers in charge of government departments and divisions. Doenz asserted that the Hato River and Cimarron bases and the Jose Domingo Espina military complex, returned to Panama under the 1977 treaties, are controlled by US troops. He also noted the presence of large contingents of US soldiers in border areas, such as Dari and Chiriqui. According to Doenz, US troops are installing equipment near the Costa Rican border for surveillance of communications throughout Central America. (Basic data from Prensa Latina, 03/09/90)

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