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## **Panama: Attorney General Orders Arrest Of Four Former Government Officials**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

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In a memo to police on March 19, Attorney General Rogelio Cruz ordered the arrests of Tomas Altamirano Duque, publisher of the newspaper La Estrella de Panama; former minister of government Rodolfo Chiari, former state security chief Guillermo Wong, and former director of the National Institute of Communications, Jose Guillermo Wong. The memo said the arrests were ordered to prevent the four from seeking political asylum in another country. Altamirano is accused of embezzlement during his term as public works minister from 1976 to 1980. He was proposed by the previous government as administrator for the Panal Canal Commission, but was rejected by Washington. Since the Dec. 20 US invasion, Altamirano's home and office have been searched several times by US troops. La Estrella de Panama, founded in 1853, is one of Latin America's oldest newspapers. There was no information on charges to be brought against the other three men. (Basic data from AFP, 03/19/90)

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