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U.S. Ambassador On Request For U.S. To Compensate Honduras For Damage Caused By Contras

by Deborah Tyroler

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On March 27, US Ambassador to Honduras, Cresencio Arcos, told reporters in Tegucigalpa that Washington has money available to compensate Hondurans for damages caused by the US-financed contra army. Two weeks ago, the Honduran Congress approved a measure to request Washington for \$9 million in indemnization payments. Arcos said that in 1988 the US Congress approved \$17 million for victims of the war against the Nicaraguan government. This money was not spent, he said, because Nicaragua did not present information on persons affected by war. It was Nicaragua's responsibility, according to Arcos, to compile an inventory of the Honduran victims of the contra war against Nicaragua, and to deliver corresponding requests for compensation. A recent study of damages caused by the contra presence in El Paraiso department by the Honduran Coffee Producers Association (AHPROCAFE) states that coffee harvest losses alone come to \$15 million. In addition, the study said that 1987, 24 Hondurans were killed in the area of the contra camps. (Basic data from Notimex, 03/27/90)

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