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On Aug. 6, the Central Bank lifted restrictions on acquisition of US dollars in an attempt to reduce or eliminate black market currency speculation. Black market quotations on the dollar almost immediately dropped from 670,000 to 640,000 cordobas. Hundreds of Managua residents lined up at banks and exchange houses on Monday to purchase dollars. The limit per person was $500. The only requirement, according to ACAN-EFE, was presentation of a passport. AFP reported no prerequisites on acquiring dollars. For the past eight years, legal exchange transactions were subject to numerous limitations. Consequently, dollar speculation flourished, and in recent months the number of individuals dedicated to black market dollar transactions soared. On Aug. 7, police detained at least 20 "coyotes" (black marketeers in dollar trading) in an attempt to terminate currency speculation. The coyotes were arrested Tuesday morning at the capital city's Mercado Oriental. Observers report that many Managua residents believe the cordoba oro, to be introduced this month at parity with the dollar, will be immediately "devalued." Some currency speculators have already promised to pay three cordobas oro per US dollar. (Basic data from AFP, 08/06/90; ACAN-EFE, 08/07/90)

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