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Alfredo Cesar On Causes Of International Community's Lack Of Enthusiasm For Providing Aid To Nicaragua

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Aug. 3, National Assembly Secretary Alfredo Cesar told reporters that the government will implement "adjustments" to its economic program to reduce negative consequences on the poor. According to Cesar, former president Daniel Ortega approved a \$230 million annual budget for 1990. He said that between February and April, Ortega's government surpassed spending projections by \$50 million, and made commitments to pay \$50 million more in wages. Cesar continued: "Thus, Ortega approved a \$230 million budget, and committed [the government] to spend \$330 million. This is not possible, since the government does not possess the resources." Next, Cesar confirmed earlier statements by Vice President Virgilio Godoy on the international community's flagging interest in providing aid to Nicaragua. He said the major explanation was the "lack of stability." Cesar added, "Governments offer aid to Nicaragua for political reasons, and [financial] organizations on the basis of the interests of their members or stockholders, and not because of emotional perceptions." (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 08/03/90)

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