

8-10-1990

## Panama: Bishops Call For Termination Of U.S. Interference In Domestic Affairs

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen>

---

### Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Panama: Bishops Call For Termination Of U.S. Interference In Domestic Affairs." (1990).  
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/4267>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [amywinter@unm.edu](mailto:amywinter@unm.edu).

## **Panama: Bishops Call For Termination Of U.S. Interference In Domestic Affairs**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

*Published: Friday, August 10, 1990*

During an Aug. 2 press conference in Panama City, the Panamanian Episcopal Conference, comprised of the country's Catholic bishops, released a statement summarizing historical developments, and calling on the government to act in the interest of reclaiming national sovereignty. According to the bishops, "The historical record compels the immediate recovery of our national sovereignty. With the return of the Canal approaching in the year 2000, Panama must not fail to assume control over its territory, including the canal." The bishops denounced US interference in Panama's domestic affairs, referring to the December invasion as an "absolute tragedy." They emphasized that 12,000 US troops remain stationed in Panama and continue to participate in patrols throughout the country. In addition to demanding that President Guillermo Endara's government confine US troops to their bases in the Canal Zone, the bishops asserted that Washington has a "moral obligation" to provide adequate economic aid for national reconstruction, as well as compensation for damages incurred by Panamanian civilians resulting from the invasion. Next, the bishops said Endara's government lacks "direction and definition," and infighting among the four government parties was described as indicative of "age-old vices in the struggle to gain control" of the political process. Archbishop Marcos McGrath urged President Endara to "assume the leadership" required to put an end to the nation's current crisis. Endara told reporters that the prelates' criticisms were "totally unfounded." He added that the bishops had "permitted themselves to be influenced by specious opinions." (Basic data from AFP, 08/02/90)

-- End --