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## **Panama May Close Canal To Iraqi Vessels**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Aug. 14, Fernando Manfredo, acting chief administrator of the Panama Canal Commission, said Panama may prevent Iraqi ships from passing through the Canal. In reference to the neutrality treaty which stipulates free passage for ships of all nationalities, Foreign Ministry legal adviser Julio Berrios said that the UN resolution calling for an economic embargo against Iraq supersedes all other agreements. Canal Commission sources cited by Notimex said that in the past seven years, only two Iraqi vessels had passed through the canal, and that no passages are currently scheduled. (Basic data from Notimex, 08/14/90)

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