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U.S. Donates \$50 Million To Guatemala

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Sept. 27, US Ambassador Thomas Stroock presided over a ceremony during which President Vinicio Cerezo received a \$50 million donation from Washington. The funds are earmarked for social welfare programs, paying for oil imports and reducing the government's foreign debt burden. The Guatemalan foreign debt is estimated at \$2.5 billion. Stroock said Washington has provided over \$900 million in aid to Guatemala since 1986. Ninety percent of the total, he added, was comprised of donations. The ambassador stated that Washington has not considered cutting aid to Guatemala because of reports on human rights abuses, and the abduction and decapitation of US citizen Michael Devine last June. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 09/27/90)

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