

10-5-1990

## Nicaragua: U.S. Applies Pressure On President Barrios De Chamorro's Government To Drop World Court Claim

Deborah Tyroler

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Nicaragua: U.S. Applies Pressure On President Barrios De Chamorro's Government To Drop World Court Claim." (1990). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/4511>

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).

## **Nicaragua: U.S. Applies Pressure On President Barrios De Chamorro's Government To Drop World Court Claim**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

*Published: Friday, October 5, 1990*

In its Sept. 30 issue, the New York Times published an article by Mark Uhlig stating that President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's government is under pressure to abandon a judgment against the US at the UN's legal branch, the International Court of Justice (World Court). The case was filed by former president Daniel Ortega's government after the mining of Nicaraguan harbors in April 1984 after clear evidence emerged of US participation. On June 27, 1986, the court ruled that the US had breached international law by supporting the contras, and ordered it to pay reparations. The amount was not specified, and Nicaraguan legal experts say the total has reached as much as \$17 billion with interest. The US refuses to recognize the court's jurisdiction in the matter. Augusto Zamora Rodriguez, who argued Nicaragua's case as former legal director of the Foreign Ministry, said, "It is in the national interest that the United States pay for the damage it caused. To say that we must give up that right is to make apologies for violence and to applaud the intervention of the strong against the weak." Uhlig cited unidentified diplomats and Nicaraguan officials who say that the Bush administration has informed President Barrios de Chamorro that future US aid to Nicaragua will depend on her willingness to abandon the claim. Following a recent visit at the State Department, Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo said, "We are analyzing the suitability of establishing a commercial treaty between Nicaragua and the United States, and within that framework, people in the United States administration and Congress will find the I.C.J. suit difficult to understand. "We must decide whether we should insist on receiving an indemnity that the United States says it will never pay, or accept the friendship of a nation and people that want to look to the future." In its last days in office, the former government approved a special law obligating all future governments to continue the claim. The law could be revoked through new action by the National Assembly.

-- End --