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## **More On Break In Diplomatic Relations Between Mainland China & Nicaragua**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Nov. 9, deputy foreign minister Ernesto Leal told reporters in Managua that his government found the Chinese leaders' decision to break diplomatic relations "lamentable," and requested that Peking reconsider. (See CAU 11/09/90 for earlier coverage.) Leal spoke with reporters upon his return from Taiwan, following establishment of diplomatic ties with that country Nov. 7. The official admitted that his government was aware of Peking's practice of breaking relations with nations who recognize Taiwan. Nevertheless, he said, the Nicaraguan government did not expect the reaction by the People's Republic of China since "times have changed, and some nations have commenced unification, such as the in the case of Germany." In response to a question on a 1985 Chinese-Nicaraguan communique defining the two nations' position vis-a-vis Taiwan, Leal said he was not informed of the same. He added, "This is a new government." On Nov. 10, the Chinese embassy in Nicaragua was closed down. (Basic data from AFP, 11/09/90, 11/10/90)

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