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Nicaragua: Semi-private Television Station Begins Broadcasting

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On Nov. 16, Channel 2, now under joint private and government ownership, began broadcasting "canned" foreign programming, including US and Mexican entertainment series, as well as CNN news broadcasts. Channel 2 will be the first semi-private station operating in Nicaragua since July, 1979, when the Sandinistas nationalized all existing television stations. The private interest in Channel 2 is held by a corporation headed by businessperson Octavio Sacasa, who owned the station prior to 1979. Channel 2 is expanding its signal strength to cover all of Nicaraguan territory, and is expected to compete with government programming carried on Channel 6. Four other stations plan to commence operations in the near future, including one owned by the Sandinistas. (Basic data from AFP, 11/17/90)

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