

12-14-1990

Panama Expels Two Cuban Diplomats

Deborah Tyroler

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

Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Panama Expels Two Cuban Diplomats." (1990). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/4821>

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.

Panama Expels Two Cuban Diplomats

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, December 14, 1990

On Dec. 4, deputy foreign minister Jose Raul Molino announced that the government had ordered Cuban economy attache Guillermo Mendes Perez and commercial attache Oscar Braulio Gutierrez to leave the country within 120 hours. Molino said the two had violated the 1954 Caracas convention on political asylum by permitting former Panamanian congressperson Luis Gomez Perez to phone former general Manuel Antonio Noriega, currently incarcerated in the US. Gomez Perez has been residing at the Cuban Embassy after having obtained political asylum. Tapes of conversations between Noriega and Gomez Perez were broadcast by US-based Cable Network News (CNN). In July this year, the Panamanian government expelled Ambassador Lazaro Molina. Since then, the embassy staff numbered four. In a Dec. 10 report by the Cuban government's international news service, Prensa Latina, foreign ministry officials were cited as saying that the recent expulsion is part of a "series of pressures to provoke a break in diplomatic relations." One official, who requested anonymity, said that if the Panamanian government had permitted Gomez safe conduct to leave the country at some point in the past 11 months, such unusual phone calls would not have occurred. The official pointed out that the tap on the phone lines was illegal. (Basic data from Xinhua, 12/05/90; Notimex, 12/10/90)

-- End --