

1-25-1991

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### Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Costa Rican Government Steps Up Security & Implements Measures Against Speculation." (1991).  
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## **Costa Rican Government Steps Up Security & Implements Measures Against Speculation**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

*Published: Friday, January 25, 1991*

On Jan. 17, Public Security Minister Victor Emilio Herrera announced that extra security measures will be taken at the nation's ports, airports and US-owned businesses to prevent possible terrorist acts linked to the war in the Persian Gulf. In addition, said Herrera, security has been increased at state-run enterprises (e.g., oil refinery, electricity and water distribution companies). The minister said he did not anticipate long-term price hikes for petroleum products. Next, Economy Minister Gonzalo Fajardo announced implementation of strict controls on the sale and distribution of 22 basic consumer products to prevent hoarding and speculation. Farjado said that an investigation was underway concerning the "flight" of basic goods to Panama and Nicaragua. (Basic data from Notimex, 01/17/91)

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