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El Salvador: National Assembly Calls On Agriculture Minister To "explain" Shut-down Of I.r.a.

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Aug. 15, members of the National Assembly approved a motion to request that Agriculture Minister Antonio Cabrales appear before the legislature Aug. 27 to provide an explanation for the Aug. 1 shut-down of the Supply Regulation Institute (IRA). After describing the elimination of the IRA as "subversive," Christian Democrat Party (PDC) deputies warned that if Cabrales' explanations are unsatisfactory the legislature will recommend his dismissal and reopening of the IRA. The deputies also asserted that President Alfredo Cristiani's privatization program result of pressure by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) , will continue to trigger confrontation between the government and labor organizations. In a petition to the Supreme Court of Justice, IRA employee union representatives requested an injunction order to halt the closing of the regulatory agency. The union petition claims the government's decision to dismantle the IRA is unconstitutional. (Basic data from AFP, 08/16/91)

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