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Nicaragua: Supreme Court Issues Injunction Against Presidential Decree For Reconstruction Of Downtown Managua

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Sept. 29, the Supreme Court issued a ruling which accepts a petition for an injunction against President Violeta Chamorro submitted Aug. 9 by the Managua mayor's office. The conflict stems from a dispute over ownership of real estate in downtown Managua, which was leveled in the 1972 earthquake and never rebuilt. The court ruling gives Barrios de Chamorro 15 days in which to provide justification for presidential decree 26-91, issued in June. According to the mayor's office, the decree essentially authorized confiscation of real estate belonging to the municipality. Managua mayor Arnoldo Aleman is seeking to have the decree declared unconstitutional. He said the municipality has already invested about \$350,000 in engineering and architectural plans for reconstruction of the downtown area. Meanwhile, the president's office has created a special commission responsible for the reconstruction project. Spokespersons for the executive say that rebuilding Managua is a national undertaking, and one which will require foreign financing. Mayor Aleman has organized two street demonstrations aimed at pressuring Chamorro to repeal the decree. The four Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) representatives elected to the Managua city council support the president's plan, and accuse Aleman of attempting to convert the reconstruction of the nation's capital into a profitable personal business venture. (Basic data from AFP, 08/29/91)

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