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Deborah Tyroler

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Panama: President Addresses Evidence Of Coup Plans By Former Military Officers

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Aug. 22, President Guillermo Endara denied rumors that he was ill and considering resignation. He also dismissed rumors of a coup being planned for former military officers associated with former de facto ruler Manuel Antonio Noriega. A week later, Endara told reporters that police investigations had confirmed the existence of a conspiracy against his government. Implicated were former members of Noriega's Special Anti-Terrorism Unit (UESAT). A weapons cache discovered by police last month in Chiriqui department is believed to have been collected by said officers. According to Endara, several former officers associated with Col. Eduardo Herrera, who led the December 1990 police rebellion, were also involved in the plot. (Basic data from EFE, 08/22/91; AFP, ACAN-EFE, 08/29/91)

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