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U.S. Funding For Costa Rica & Nicaragua To Combat Drug Trafficking

by Deborah Tyroler

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In separate ceremonies held in San Jose and Managua, US officials finalized agreements to provide \$123,000 to Costa Rica and \$50,000 to Nicaragua for use in efforts to combat drug trafficking. In Costa Rica, the funds will be used for equipment purchases and repairs, as well as for training specialized personnel. Sources at the US Embassy in San Jose confirmed that in FY 1992, Costa Rica will receive an additional \$200,000 in security assistance. Of this amount, \$123,000 will go to the Administrative Police and the remaining \$77,000 to the Judicial Police (OIJ), a dependency of the Supreme Court. The aid for Nicaragua, also to be supplemented in the new fiscal year beginning in October, will be spent on equipment, training, and assistance in revamping Nicaraguan legislation on drug trafficking. As part of the agreement, agents from the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) will be sent to Managua to work with personnel from the Interior Ministry. Since Jan. 1, Nicaraguan public security forces have arrested 95 persons on drug charges, including two Colombians, two Mexicans and one Honduran. (Basic data from AFP, ACAN- EFE, 09/04/91)

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