

10-25-1991

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### Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Panama: Opposition Party On Government's Claims Of Coup Plots & Conspiracies." (1991).  
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/6580>

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## **Panama: Opposition Party On Government's Claims Of Coup Plots & Conspiracies**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

*Published: Friday, October 25, 1991*

On Oct. 22, Interior Minister Juan Chevalier told reporters that he had information concerning coup plots against the government, and threats against the life of President Guillermo Endara. Chevalier said the president was "no fool," and is prepared to respond to any type of threat against his administration. Security has been reinforced at the presidential palace, and the president's offices. Also on Tuesday, the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) released a communique accusing the Endara administration of fabricating coups, conspiracies and insurrections on a weekly basis to divert attention from Panama's serious problems. The PRD communique said claims made by the government are "conjectures, and conspiracies end up vanishing into the air...[N]either the true protagonists nor concrete [evidence] ever appear." According to the PRD, Attorney General Rogelio Cruz "apparently delights himself with these types of fantastic inventions." Finally, the communique said the PRD is not concerned with the government's continued actions to discredit itself, but rather that false conspiracy charges are used as justification to "unleash persecution and political repression." (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, AFP, 10/22/91)

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