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## **Nicaragua: Legislative Assembly To Investigate C.i.a. Funding Of 1990 Presidential Election**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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At an Oct. 22 press conference, National Assembly president Alfredo Cesar told reporters that a legislative commission would investigate charges of US Central Intelligence Agency involvement in President Violeta Chamorro's electoral campaign. He said the commission would investigate the financial records of all parties involved in the elections. According to Cesar, the investigation would reveal unreported and illegal financing of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) campaign, rather than uncover illegal activities by parties belong to the Nicaraguan Opposition Union (UNO). Next, Cesar denied that he had ever received money from the CIA, or any other foreign organization. He said the article on Agency support for the Chamorro campaign published in the Oct. 21 issue of US magazine Newsweek was written by "friends of the Sandinistas." The article, he added, was part of a campaign to distract attention from the controversy over property rights and the FSLN government's corrupt practices. During a speech Oct. 20 in Managua, former president Daniel Ortega said that if the Newsweek report proves accurate, the February 1990 elections were "fraudulent." He called on President Chamorro to have the executive branch launch its own investigation and for the US government to do the same. Ortega then called on both governments to prosecute individuals found guilty of violating US or Nicaraguan law, respectively. On Oct. 23, Ortega formally submitted a petition to Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) president Mariano Fiallos requesting an investigation into possible CIA funding of the UNO electoral campaign. [Basic data from Barricada (Managua), 10/15/91, 10/21/91; ACAN-EFE, 10/22/91, 10/23/91; AFP, 10/23/91)

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