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## **On Japanese Contribution To Panamanian Government's Payment Of Debt Service Arrears Owed Multilateral Institutions**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Oct. 25 during a telephone interview with the Agence France-Presse, Osamu Igami, Japan's minister counselor in Panama City, said his government has not yet made a decision on financial support to Panama for payment of US\$500 million in debt service arrears to multilateral financial institutions. Local newspapers reported that Tokyo was expected to provide US\$120 million in loans and donations. Igami said the Japanese government was "surprised" by the reports appearing in the Panamanian media. In August, Planning Minister Guillermo Ford told reporters that Japan will contribute US\$100 million in loans or donations. In addition to the Japanese contribution, Ford specified US\$130 million to be provided by the US, US\$40 million from Taiwan, US\$4 million by France, and an indeterminate amount from the European Community. On Oct. 28, Igami told reporters that his government would assist Panama "in all ways possible" to renegotiate its foreign debt. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 10/25/91, 10/28/91)

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