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Deborah Tyroler

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## **Guatemala: Controversy Over Resignation Of National Police Chief**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Oct. 30, Interior Minister Fernando Hurtado Prem told reporters that National Police director Col. Mario Paiz had resigned. Paiz was recently accused by Human Rights Attorney General Ramiro de Leon Carpio as ultimately responsible for the torture of three persons detained by National Police officers. (See CAU 10/29/91.) Col. Paiz told reporters on Oct. 31 that he had not resigned, and only President Jorge Serrano could force him out of the post. Later the same day, Carlos Enrique Samayoa was sworn in as Paiz's replacement. Samayoa, an attorney, is the first civilian ever to be appointed to the post which has traditionally gone to a high-ranking military officer. Samayoa formerly served as an adviser to Interior Minister Hurtado. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 10/30/91, 10/31/91; AFP, 10/31/91)

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