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Update On Cholera, November 9 - 18

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Nov. 9: Nicaraguan radio stations reported three suspected cases of cholera. Nicaraguan Health Minister Ernesto Salmeron declared a health emergency along the Honduran border. Authorities suspect that two rivers in the area, the Guasaule and the Goascoran, are contaminated with the cholera bacteria. Nov. 11: Nicaraguan Health Minister Salmeron reported that the nation's first case of cholera, a resident of a Managua slum, had been confirmed. Ministry authorities immediately quarantined the neighborhood. Nov. 12: Guatemalan health officials reported 32 deaths and 900 confirmed cases of cholera. Nov. 14: Costa Rican Health Ministry spokespersons intensified anti-cholera measures along the borders and in coastal areas. Nov. 15: A Nicaraguan Health Ministry communique denied rumors regarding a second confirmed case of cholera. Nov. 18: Nicaraguan Health Minister Salmeron reported that the cholera epidemic was "under control," thanks to citizens' compliance with the sanitation regulations imposed by the government. Salmeron observed, however, that the situation was "unpredictable." Salvadoran Health Ministry spokespersons reported 24 deaths and 708 confirmed cases of cholera. Health Minister Lisandro Vasquez reported that laboratory analyses of the water table in various locations throughout the country had been suspended due to lack of funds and specialized personnel. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 11/06/91, 11/07/91, 11/09/91, 11/11/91, 11/12/91, 11/18/91; Agence France-Presse, 11/09/91, 11/12-15/91, 11/18/91)

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