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## **Panama: On Coup Attempt**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Dec. 2, daily newspaper Panama America reported that the Institutional Protection Service (SPI) was responsible for a failed coup attempt on Dec. 1. According to Panama America, 15 elite SPI members were arrested, and the plot was led by Capt. Juan Vergara Frias. The SPI is charged with security for the president. The conspiracy was reportedly uncovered by members of the National Defense Security Council, headed by Menalco Solis. President Guillermo Endara's spokesperson Jose Hernandez denied that any coup attempt took place. (Basic data from Inter Press Service, 12/02/91)

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