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On Aug. 5 during an interview with Quito radio station Vision, President Rodrigo Borja told reporters that negotiations with foreign commercial banks on restructuring the government's outstanding debt had been stalemated. The Borja administration has been trying to refinance $5.646 billion in commercial bank debt which includes $1.185 billion in interest arrears for the past two years. At present, bank creditors are receiving only 30% of contracted interest payments from Quito. Talks with the committee representing the banks have been suspended on at least two previous occasions. According to Borja, the two sides have not yet reached agreement "because the creditors are very demanding, and we are not willing to sacrifice national interests and our country's urgent development tasks to pay foreign banks." Given universal crisis conditions, he said, nations reserve the right to pay their debts to the extent internal economic and social conditions permit. The government's total foreign debt is estimated at $12 billion. (Basic data from EFE, AFP, 08/05/91)

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