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Summary Of U.S. Aid To Panama Since December 1989

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According to Thomas Stuckell, director of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) office in Panama City, total US aid to Panama since Guillermo Endara took office in December 1989 comes to US$984.9 million. Of the total, US$451.1 million are classified as donations. The remainder consists of loans, trade preference arrangements and low-price food import programs placed at the disposition of the government and the private sector. Stuckell said US$130 million of US donations went to support Panama's settlement of US$540 million in arrears owed to multilateral financial institutions. A total of US$321 were earmarked for employment generation, small business loan, public sector restructuring, economic recovery, public sector investment and development aid programs, among other things. As of Jan. 31, US$190 million of the US$451.1 million had been disbursed. Other assistance includes Panama's sugar export quota to the US, programs under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), US military construction and other civic programs, credit lines for Panamanian importers, production loans, food import loans, and private investment programs. As of Jan. 31, Panamanians had used US$143.7 million worth of the US$533.8 million total. (Basic data from Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias-Spanish news service EFE, 01/31/92)