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Business Leader Says Nicaragua In No Danger Of "social Explosion"

by Deborah Tyroler

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In statements broadcast by government-owned Radio Nicaragua, Ramiro Gurdian, president of the Superior Council of Private Enterprise (Consejo Superior de la Empresa Privada- COSEP), minimized the threat to stability posed by widespread hunger and unemployment. According to Gurdian, the imminence of a "social explosion" was nothing more than an idea promoted by the opposition Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). Gurdian said the occupation of towns and highways by protesters, together with threats of an impending social explosion made by FSLN general secretary Daniel Ortega, "are damaging to Nicaragua since they discourage foreign investment." [In October 1991, COSEP refused to sign national concertacion accords recognizing employee access to a 25% stake in state-run enterprises slated for privatization. The accords were endorsed by the government, the pro-Sandinista National Workers Front (FNT), and business and producer organizations not affiliated with COSEP.] (Basic data from Notimex, 03/18/92)

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