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Nicaragua: Former Ambassador To Taiwan Accused Of Taking Bribes From Potential Investors

by Deborah Tyroler

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A report broadcast recently by pro-Sandinista "Radio Ya" alleges that former Nicaraguan ambassador to Taiwan, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Jr., accepted US\$950,000 in bribes while serving in Taipei. Chamorro, son of President Violeta Chamorro, served as ambassador to Taiwan between 1990 and 1992. According to the report, the money was given to Chamorro by John Liu Yuan, a Taiwanese businessman. In return, Chamorro was to help Taiwanese investors set up businesses in Nicaragua in areas such as fishing and lumber exploitation. The report indicated that, while serving as ambassador, Chamorro was also involved in the illicit sale of Nicaraguan passports to citizens of several Southeast Asian countries. In the March 30 edition of daily newspaper La Prensa, where he currently holds the position of deputy director, Pedro Joaquin Jr. wrote a column rejecting the accusations. "I never took a bribe from anyone during my tenure as ambassador, nor have I ever been involved in any type of illegal transactions involving [Nicaraguan] passports." (Source: Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias-Spanish news service EFE, 03/30/93)

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