

C05594352: All records searched and Page 10 is the only portion of this document that could be locate.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE:
02-Mar-2016

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In Brief

Americas

- Oscar Arias, candidate of governing National Liberation Party, apparent winner in yesterday's presidential vote in **Costa Rica** . . . Social Christian Unity opponent Calderon conceded defeat after rival took unexpected commanding lead in initial returns. (C-NF)
- Controversial rightist Colonel Ochoa to be defense attache in Washington, [redacted] . . . sharpened his criticism of Duarte, high command recently . . . offered to resign after January confrontation with Defense Minister. (S-NF-NC-OC)
- **Nicaragua** devalued currency 60 percent on Friday, fixing cordoba at 70 to US dollar for most transactions . . . further limits private-sector access to imports . . . black-market rate had plunged to 1,300 cordoba to dollar because of triple-digit inflation. (C-NF)

[redacted]

East Asia

- **Hong Kong** press reports **China's** Deng Xiaoping on inspection tour in Szechuan Province . . . first public appearance since December . . . trip in keeping with Deng's previous practice of touring provinces during winter months. (C-NF)

Middle East

[redacted]

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- **Israel's** labor union confederation, Histadrut, planning two-hour warning strike tomorrow . . . protesting stringent government budget proposed for fiscal year beginning 1 April . . . first major labor action since austerity program imposed last July. (C-NF)
- **Morocco** has paid \$78 million in arrears to commercial bank, [redacted] . . . payment removes major obstacle to debt-rescheduling efforts . . . Rabat's cash shortage limits prospects of meeting future payments. (C-NF)

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