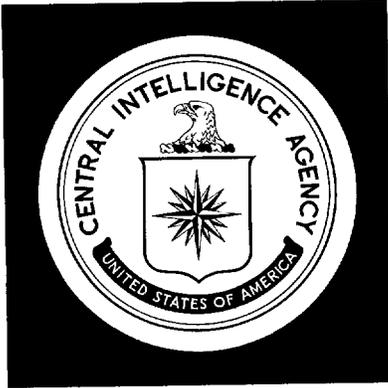


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PANAMA: Government still unable to agree on position for canal treaty talks. (Page 7)



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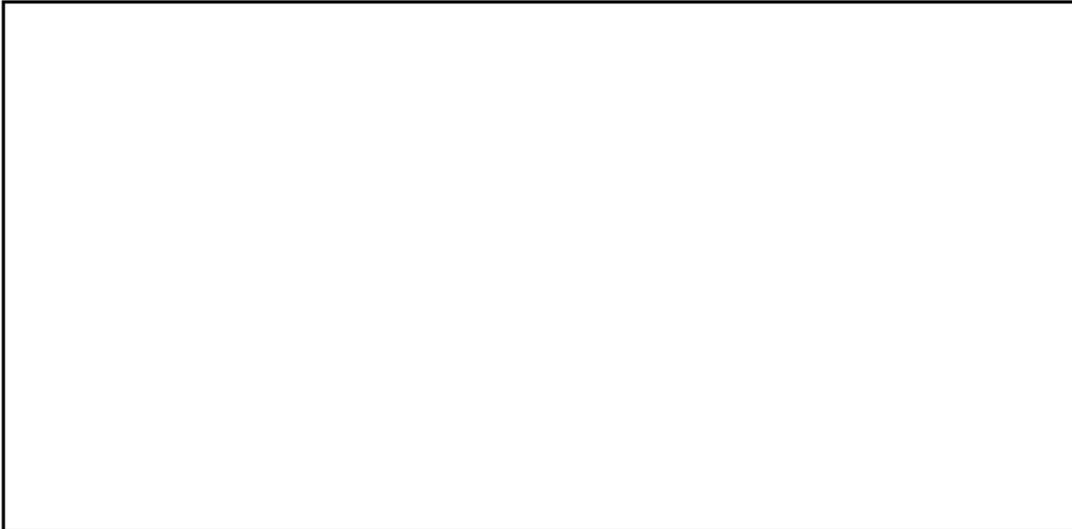


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PANAMA: Thursday marked the first anniversary of the current round of canal treaty negotiations between the US and Panama. For the past three months, however, there have been no formal sessions despite continued US readiness to work toward an agreement.

The extended recess was caused by Panama's inability to agree on a negotiating position. The negotiating team in the US and the Foreign Relations Advisory Council in Panama have been working independently on position papers. Differences between these two groups will have to be resolved before negotiations with the US can resume.



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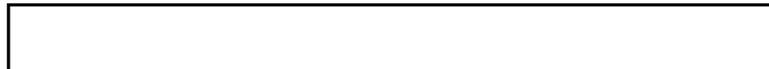
Even if the Panamanians can agree on a position, the government's major preoccupation for the next month will be the election. Beyond that, Panama sees advantages in waiting until after the US elections in November.

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