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Costa Rica Prepares Defense Against Nicaraguan Accusations Before International Court Of Justice

by Deborah Tyroler

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As the dispute between Costa Rica and Nicaragua before the International Court of Justice (World Court) proceeds, the government in San Jose is racing against time to enlist the support of western nation allies. Managua has accused the Costa Rican government of permitting the use of its territory by the Nicaraguan contras in attacks against the Sandinista government. Details of the Costa Rican legal defense are not known at present. However, defense is expected to argue that Nicaragua is a center of espionage against regional governments, thereby politically destabilizing the entire area. President Oscar Arias has said that if adequate evidence is found of the presence of Costa Rican rebels in Nicaragua, his government will then denounce Nicaragua before the Organization of American States (OAS). Public Security Minister Hernan Garron reportedly announced that he possessed information on military training centers in Nicaragua for Costa Ricans. He did not mention, however, the nature or source of evidence. Widely distributed coverage by foreign and local journalists recently forced the government in San Jose to admit the existence of a military airport facility in northern Costa Rica near the Nicaraguan border. (Basic information from PRENSA LATINA, 10/20/86)

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