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Deborah Tyroler
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Oct. 22: Former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark arrived in Managua, accompanied by attorney Douglas Colbert. Clark told reporters his trip was motivated in part by an investigation into the extent of Washington's involvement in the transport of arms to contra forces inside Nicaragua in reference to the shoot-down of the supply plane on Oct. 5. Both attorneys reportedly commented that their investigation will determine whether Washington in effect violated the Neutrality Act. This legislation prohibits the provision of war materiel in actions against another government with which the United States has diplomatic relations. (PRENSA LATINA, 10/23/86) U.S. citizen Eugene Hasenfus was arrested on Oct. 6 by Sandinista troops after he parachuted from a C-123 cargo plane shot down in southern Nicaragua. The plane was engaged in an airlift mission to supply military equipment to Nicaraguan contras inside Nicaraguan territory. Three other crew members including two Americans and a Nicaraguan died in the crash. Oct. 24: Hasenfus told UPI reporters that he was somewhat concerned about the way the trial is being conducted. He pointed out that his attorney, Enrique Sotelo Borgen, had consulted him only briefly before entering a plea of innocence. Hasenfus has been accused of terrorism, illegal association for criminal purposes, and violation of public security legislation. The American said he was hopeful that former US Attorney General Griffin Bell will provide useful assistance in the case. Bell was contracted by his family, and is not representing the US government in any official capacity. Ramsey Clark visited the popular tribunals where he was shown documents stating the specific accusations against Hasenfus. At that time he accused Sotelo Borgen of clouding the issues at hand by continually speaking out against the Sandinista government. He said, "We do not know who selected Sotelo Borgen, since he is hardly the only attorney in Nicaragua." According to PRENSA LATINA, Clark said that any independent government has the right to defend itself. The attorney criticized Sotelo by pointing out that he is an opposition leader seeking to politicize the trial for his own ends. (UPI, 10/25/86; PRENSA LATINA, 10/25/86) Oct. 25: The Anti-Somocista Popular Tribunals rejected an accusation by defense attorney Enrique Sotelo Borgen that certain legal requirements in the case had not been fulfilled. Sotelo's move was interpreted as a maneuver to delay the trial, much like his Oct. 20 request for postponement which was also denied. Meanwhile, chair of the tribunals, Rodrigo Reyes, also rejected statements by Sotelo to the effect that the defendant's human rights guarantees were being violated, and that the tribunals are "partial."

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