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Nicaraguan Defense Ministry Reports On Recent Contra Casualties

by Deborah Tyroler
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According to a Dec. 13 report by the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry, on Dec. 11 Sandinista troops ambushed a contra unit attempting to cross the Coco river into Nicaragua. The incident occurred near Wanblan, 120 mi. northeast of Managua, and was the first reported near the Honduran border since troops of both nations clashed the weekend of Dec. 7. Sandinista troops reportedly sunk the contras' launch, and caused eight casualties. The number of dead and wounded were not specified. The ministry also reported on another incident in the Aguas Gatas area of southern Nicaragua, 120 mi. southeast of Managua. On Dec. 9, Sandinista soldiers reportedly clashed with contra forces in the area, killing 11 and capturing 14. Sandinista troops have reportedly fought with contras in nine separate actions since late November. According to the ministry, 71 casualties were inflicted on the contras, and no Sandinista deaths were reported.

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