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Deborah Tyroler

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by Deborah Tyroler

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The official media in Nicaragua reported Dec. 21, including daily newspaper BARRICADA, that about 1,000 Sandinista troops took part in exercises Dec. 20 45 km. north of Managua simulating an attack by US paratroopers against the capital. According to the scenario of the maneuvers, paratrooper landings would be one of several simultaneous attacks launched against Managua. Military attaches from the US Embassy attended the exercises. President Daniel Ortega told the combatants, "We are not having manoeuvres to confront Honduras but to defend ourselves against the North American invader who is spying on our country."

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