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## **Contra "radio Libertad" Begins Broadcasting Jan. 16**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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The Costa Rican Interior Ministry confirmed Jan. 13 that another contra radio station, "Radio Libertad," will begin broadcasting Jan. 16, reportedly from Nicaraguan territory. The AM frequency to be used by the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity (UNO), 1500 kilohertz, is presently employed by Costa Rican station, Radio San Carlos. UNO leader Alfonso Robelo told a press conference in San Jose that the station is financed by the US, along with other contra-run broadcast facilities. Spokespersons for Radio San Carlos, located in northern Costa Rica, told Cuban news agency PRENSA LATINA the station has switched to 1400 kilohertz, and that it will increase power within the next few days. Under Costa Rican law, foreigners are prohibited from controlling organs of the mass media. Consequently, foreign investors seek to form corporations with local businesspeople to operate radio and television stations. According to weekly newspaper UNIVERSAL, Costa Rican-based Radio Impacto is another contra radio station which broadcasts into Nicaragua. Radio Impacto is owned by a corporation consisting of foreign and local businesspeople, and its programming is similar to that of the contra station Radio Septiembre 15 which broadcasts from Honduran territory. Contra propaganda is also distributed on a weekly basis via inserts in two major Costa Rican daily newspapers, LA NACION and LA REPUBLICA.

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