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Deborah Tyroler

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Calero Says Newly-trained Officers & Troops Among 10,000 Contra Troops Infiltrated In Nicaragua

by Deborah Tyroler

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Adolfo Calero, head of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) told reporters in Tegucigalpa Jan. 15 that 120 US-trained contra officers and specialists had entered Nicaragua and would soon escalate the war against the Sandinista government. The contra leader said 67 military officers and a group of communications specialists and paramedics had graduated from a six-week training course in the US and were now in Nicaragua. The training took place at an "undisclosed US military installation," which most observers believe to be in Florida. The training is financed by the \$100 million in US aid for the contras approved in 1986. According to Calero, more than 100 contras were involved in training at present, and that a total of 600 would eventually be trained by US advisers. He said over 10,000 rebels had penetrated deep into Nicaragua, while another 10,000 are located in "safe zones" waiting to penetrate further. Meanwhile, most western military observers claim FDN forces total no more than 12,000, and that only about 4,000 have infiltrated Nicaragua in the past two months. (Basic data from Reuters, 01/15/87)

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