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Four Central American Foreign Ministers Meet In San Jose To Prepare For Contadora Peace Mission

by Deborah Tyroler

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The foreign ministers of Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Guatemala met Jan. 16 in San Jose to "prepare for" the upcoming peace mission consisting of Contadora and Support Group foreign ministers and the secretaries general of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS). At a news conference following the meeting, diplomats said they were in agreement that the solution to regional problems must be political rather than military. Meanwhile, statements by Costa Rican Ambassador to the US, Guido Fernandez, indicated that his government has developed an alternative to the Contadora peace plan. Fernandez reportedly told LA NACION that a proposal discussed during the previous week in Miami by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal, US Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliott Abrams and US presidential envoy to Central America Philip Habib, is not contradictory to Washington's objectives of pressuring Managua into negotiating with the contras.

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