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## **Another Moderate Leader Of Nicaraguan Contra Movement Expected To Resign**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On April 15, State Department spokesperson Phyllis Oakley announced that Alfonso Robelo is expected to resign from the leadership of the United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO). She refused to comment on the impact this might have on the contra movement and continued US support for the contras in their struggle to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. Remarks attributed to Robelo in recent interviews, indicating that he intends to leave UNO when it is reorganized later this month, could not be independently confirmed by the NEW YORK TIMES (04/16/87). Administration officials are seeking to downplay Robelo's stated intention to resign, saying that there are "other democratic leaders who can move into key positions." But members of Congress who oppose US aid to the contras declare that if Robelo resigns, it will be difficult for the contras to prove they have a unified leadership. Some express hope that such development would push the administration into focusing more on a negotiated settlement with the Sandinistas. Some contra leaders speculate that Robelo does not intend to resign and is making threats in order to strengthen his position as the contras reorganize. The reorganization is an attempt to persuade Congress to continue its support. Robelo has been quoted as saying that he would not serve in the new directorate because he fears it will be dominated by the leaders of the Honduran-based Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the contra army headed by Adolfo Calero, that was formed by the CIA five years ago.

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