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Central American Leaders Discuss Rescheduling Of Summit Meeting

by Deborah Tyroler

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In an effort to resolve issues of how much preparation, when and where, before the aborted Central American summit meeting planned for late June can be rescheduled, Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo arrived in Tegucigalpa June 16 and met with Honduran President Jose Azcona. The presidents told reporters afterward that they had set a "tentative date" of Aug. 6-7 for a summit in Guatemala, to be preceded by three foreign ministers' meetings in Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. Azcona and Cerezo said Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte had accepted the new date "in principle" and that they would proceed to consult Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. Arias said on June 12 that he would agree to a postponement "if it's a matter of a few weeks. But if they're thinking about some months I would not agree." President Ortega has said he would not consider August or any other date for the summit, since there are no substantive reasons to have postponed the talks in the first place. Early this week, Cerezo had announced the summit would not be officially postponed until the five leaders had reached a consensus on a new date for the meeting. The major objective of the summit is to discuss a regional peace plan introduced by Arias at a February meeting of Central American presidents in San Jose. President Ortega was not invited to that meeting. (Basic data from PRENSA LATINA, 06/17/87)

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