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## Nicaragua: Notes On Evidence Of Political Opening

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

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On Sept. 27, several thousand supporters of the Social Christian Party marched in Managua. Party leaders said it was the largest protest since the Sandinista government took power in 1979. The deadline for lifting the state of emergency, cease-fire, and other provisions under the Central American peace accord is Nov. 7. The Sandinista authorities already seem to be applying the emergency laws less forcefully. In the past, applications for political demonstrations have often been denied. But the police issued a permit for the Social Christians' march. Security officers watched but did not interfere. Marchers chanted slogans demanding a general amnesty and an end to the draft. Among the marchers were former President Luis Herrera Campins of Venezuela and Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, a close aide to Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte. This week, the Roman Catholic radio station, which the government shut down 21 months ago, is expected back on the air. It will again be directed by the Rev. Bismarck Carballo, who was forced into exile last year for his open support of the contras. A few days after the radio station resumes its broadcasts, the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, closed since June 1986, is scheduled to resume publication. Jaime Chamorro Cardenal, senior editor before the paper was shut down was expected to return to Nicaragua on Sept. 29 after an extended absence. In a telephone interview with the NEW YORK TIMES from Costa Rica, Chamorro said LA PRENSA would test the commitment of the Sandinistas to the accord, which requires all Central American countries to permit press and political freedoms. Chamorro's comments reflected the same uncompromising sentiments that led the government to close the paper. "The Sandinistas say they expect us to practice responsible journalism, but it is not irresponsible to write that their dictatorship is a dictatorship," Chamorro said. "Our responsibility is to Nicaragua and to democracy. We have no responsibility to the Sandinistas, who have persecuted us, censored us and closed us down." Last week, the government gave a group of opposition journalists permission to publish a new weekly magazine, the first under the Sandinistas. Editors say the magazine, to be called CRONICA, will offer a range of commentary on politics and national events. A column by Luis Serra in the pro-government newspaper NUEVO DIARIO said Nicaragua was about to see "a return to the heated ideological debate of the early days of the revolution." "Some opponents of the Sandinistas see this situation as a long-sought chance to win the support of masses of people tired of war and economic crisis," he added. "Members of the Sandinista front are feeling a degree of uncertainty and lack of confidence as they prepare for the period ahead." (Basic data from NEW YORK TIMES, 09/29/87)

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