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In Brazil Soviet Foreign Minister Addresses Central American Peace Plan

by Deborah Tyroler

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After meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on Sept. 29, Brazilian foreign ministry sources quoted Minister Roberto de Abreu Sodre as saying, "Today we are on the verge of peace in Central America and (Minister) Shevardnadze agrees with me." De Abreu Sodre said he discussed the diplomacy of the Contadora Group (Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela) and its Support Group (Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay) with his Soviet counterpart. The Brazilian minister reportedly emphasized that a sustained peace is unlikely in the absence of considerable financial aid provided to Central American nations. This conviction was conveyed at a meeting of foreign ministers last week in New York from Contadora, Support Group and European Economic Community (EEC) nations. Brazilian officials said Sept. 30 that Shevardnadze assured them that the USSR supports the Central American peace plan, and will place no obstacles in its way. A senior Brazilian official said Shevardnadze had been "very explicit and very emphatic" when talking with President Jose Sarney about the peace plan. The official quoted Shevardnadze as saying: "We will abide by the agreement. We will create no difficulties to permit the implementation of this accord." Latin American diplomats based in Moscow say they believe that Moscow does not want Nicaragua to be an important point of friction in its relations with Washington. These diplomats said the Russians had encouraged Nicaragua to make political concessions and negotiate an end to the contra war. Moscow has also made it clear that it is not willing to take on greater financial responsibilities in Nicaragua. Shevardnadze's Latin American tour includes visits to Argentina, Uruguay and Cuba. (Basic data from AFP, 09/29/87; NEW YORK TIMES, 10/01/87)

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