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## **Sandinista Leaders Discuss Treaty Compliance; Statement Rules Out Talks With Contra Leaders, Broad Amnesty**

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Oct. 29, Nicaraguan leaders held a special session of the Sandinista Assembly, the party's senior consultative body, to discuss how to comply with peace accord provisions by next week's deadline. The treaty is to come into force next Thursday, Nov. 5, and political leaders said Oct. 29 that the government is preparing a package of announcements for Wednesday. According to party officials, the assembly was to consider amnesty and cease-fire talks, among other questions. After the meeting, a statement was issued saying that all countries, not just Nicaragua, must abide by the accord. The accord requires an end to support for insurgents. "All aid to the counter-revolution by the United States and Central American governments should end," the statement said. It said there would be no peace "as long as the counter-revolution is not ordered to end its illegitimate war against Nicaragua." In this regard, the communique indicated that the state of emergency in effect since 1982 cannot be as long as aggression against Nicaragua continues. The statement indicated no change in the Sandinista position against talks with the contras, and toward releasing all political prisoners. "The people of Nicaragua and the Sandinista National Liberation Front declared that there will never, at any time or in any place, be any direct or indirect political dialogue with the counter-revolutionary leadership." Demands by Washington and the political opposition to release all prisoners, including former members of Somoza's National Guard, said the statement, are unacceptable, as are any demands not included in the Aug. 7 peace accord. Three of the four members on the National Reconciliation Commission, charged with verifying compliance with the accord, say the government has thus far failed to comply. The three reportedly support the release of all or nearly all political prisoners, and government negotiations in some fashion with the contras. The only dissenting member is the government's representative on the commission, Vice President Sergio Ramirez. According to Mauricio Diaz Davil, who represents opposition parties on the commission, as many as 3,000 prisoners may either be pardoned or be granted amnesty on Nov. 5. He and other politicians said they also expect the state of emergency, which restricts many civil and political rights, to be curtailed but not lifted. Diaz said that the Sandinistas must find a formula to discuss cease-fire arrangements with the contras. "We need to do anything possible to reach peace," Diaz said. "If that means we have to open talks with these people, then we should." Cardinal Miguel Cardinal Obando y Bravo, another commission member, has offered to serve as intermediary between the government and the contras. Cardinal Obando spoke after the reconciliation commission met on Wednesday. At the meeting, he proposed that the government seek talks with the contras. Vice President Ramirez said he would convey the proposal. "The only dialogue we have considered useful is with the government of the United States," Ramirez said. "This is an invariable position of the national government." Despite the Vice President's statements, Diaz and Cardinal Obando are continuing to press for a broad amnesty and for cease-fire talks. The fourth member of the commission, Gustavo Parajon, said in an interview with the New York Times that he shares their view. Dr. Parajon said that if the government takes no further steps by the end of next week, it will not be in compliance with the peace accord. (Basic data from AFP, 10/29/87; NEW YORK TIMES, 10/30/87)

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