

2-10-1988

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Costa Rica: Indictments For Two Persons Involved In Secret Airstrip Construction

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Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, February 10, 1988

In late November, former Public Security Minister Benjamin Piza and northern zone ex-Civil Guard Commander Col. Ramon Montero were indicted for involvement in construction of a secret airstrip for use and assistance of the Nicaraguan contras. Airstrip construction was promoted by former US Ambassador to Costa Rica, Lewis Tambs. Piza was a founding member of the right-wing paramilitary organization, Costa Rica Libre. Earlier in 1987, Piza admitted that he traveled to Washington to meet with President Reagan. The two men were the first individuals prosecuted for suspected involvement in the Iran-contra scandal in Costa Rica. (From Mesoamerica, December 1987, summarized by Central America Resource Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota)

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