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Nicaraguan Proposal To Request That U.N. Send Observers To Verify Compliance With Peace Accord Rejected

by Deborah Tyroler

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At a meeting of Central American foreign ministers in Honduras last week, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, the Rev. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, proposed that the United Nations be asked to send observers to the region to verify compliance with the regional peace accord established in August 1987. The meeting ended on June 22. Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras said no progress could be made toward peace while Nicaragua refused to withdraw the complaint it has lodged against Honduras in the International Court of Justice at The Hague. The complaint accuses Honduras of violating international law by harboring the contras. On June 23 in Managua, D'Escoto told reporters that Lopez Contreras acted against the wishes of Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo, choosing instead to follow the dictates of the US Embassy and certain sectors of the Honduran armed forces. The Nicaraguan minister said Lopez Contreras had acted to obstruct progress at the meeting of the Executive Commission created under the accord, consisting of foreign ministers from the five Central American nations. The Honduran minister, he said, prevented the presentation of a petition to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar seeking the creation of an on-site observer commission to consist of participants from Spain, West Germany and Canada. D'Escoto said President Azcona gave instructions to Lopez Contreras in the presence of the foreign ministers to sign the petition to Perez de Cuellar without previous conditions. The Nicaraguan minister said his Honduran counterpart pressured Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto to request that Nicaragua first withdraw a claim against Honduras before the World Court. (Basic data from AP, 06/23/88)

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