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## Nicaraguan President On Secretary Of State Shultz's Trip To Central America

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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During a speech in Managua on June 21, President Daniel Ortega said he believed that the Reagan administration was seeking to build support, both in Central America and in Washington, for sending arms to the contras. "President Reagan is still determined to defeat the Sandinista revolution before he leaves the White House," Ortega told a group of visiting Americans. US Secretary of State George Shultz is scheduled to visit four Central American countries on a three-day trip beginning June 29. It is his first trip to the region since 1986. For years, the Nicaraguan government has requested talks with the US but Managua has been once again omitted from Shultz's itinerary. Ortega said Shultz's trip to Central America "is not a peace signal... It is suspicious because he's going to seek some kind of support for a statement that would lead Reagan to ask for more aid for the contras." During a speech in Managua on June 23 to industrial workers from Granada department, Ortega said that Shultz's trip is motivated by an attempt to pressure neighboring governments to act against Nicaragua. Ortega said that Shultz will exert great pressure to obtain statements from these governments to justify US aggression against Nicaragua. The president continued by asserting that the Reagan administration is presently seeking a pretext not only to resume military aid to the contras, but also to invade Nicaragua. On June 24, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced plans to travel to Cuba "in the coming days." He has reportedly consulted with Fidel Castro frequently during moments of crisis. (Basic data from AP, 06/23/88; New York Times, 06/25/88)

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