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Nicaragua: La Prensa Publishes Alleged Fsln Document Demonstrating Opposition To Regional Peace Plan

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Aug. 10, La Prensa published a document allegedly authored by analysts of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) last year prior to signing of the regional peace accord in Guatemala by the region's five presidents. The newspaper described the document as a confidential report which "proves" the FSLN's disinterest in complying with the peace accord, known as Esquipulas II. La Prensa declared that the "failure" of Esquipulas II seems to have been predicted in April 1987, the date of the document. An addendum to the same, according to La Prensa, was prepared in June 1987 by the FSLN's international relations analysts and the Ministry of Foreign Relations. The combined document, according to La Prensa, was forwarded to President Daniel Ortega in June, two months before Esquipulas II. Summarized below are selected highlights from the "confidential document" appearing in La Prensa: * Support for the peace plan, whose principal architect was Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, was not in Nicaragua's interests since it tended to focus on "domestic democratization" measures. The Sandinistas preferred earlier peace accord language drafted by the Contadora Group (Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela), which specified that the principal origins of the Nicaraguan conflict were the aggressions launched by "imperialism" and its allies. Consequently, the document recommended delaying as much as possible the presidential summit in Guatemala. * The document advises President Ortega that the summit called to discuss and sign the regional accord could be transformed into a political trap in which the Sandinistas would be confronted with the combined pressures of imperialism, its satellite governments in the region, Western Europe, and the domestic and foreign bourgeois opposition. Meanwhile, said the document, the Contadora countries would be neutralized, and some would use the Central American regional accord as the means to "wash their hands" of the situation. * The document asserted that the Mexican government had failed to exert sufficient effort to block support for Arias' plan, contrary to its promises. * The document recommended that the FSLN and the government attempt to exploit rivalries between President Arias and Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, as well as the "personal vanity" of both leaders. The document as published in La Prensa, said Arias presumes to be the most intellectual of politicians and the most political of intellectuals, and adds that his mediation in bourgeois politics has been good. Next, the document recommends that Nicaraguan officials avoid abstract conceptual discussions with Arias, such as debate on the concept of democracy. Instead, discussions with the Costa Rican leader are to focus on practical matters, where Arias is "frankly weak." Cerezo is reportedly described as a very capable and pragmatic politician. "Well-managed, he can become our best ally." (Basic data from AP, 08/10/88)

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