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## **Nicaraguan President Reiterates Offer To Negotiate With Honduras Toward Preventing Contra Attacks**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Aug. 25, President Daniel Ortega renewed his offer to negotiate with Honduras the establishment of an international monitoring force to prevent attacks from Honduran territory by the contras. Ortega said that in a recent communique with President Jose Azcona Hoyo, he stated that Nicaragua would be prepared to settle a suit brought against Honduras before the International Court of Justice outside of court if Tegucigalpa agrees to negotiate on the creation of the international force to monitor the Honduran-Nicaraguan border. The force would be comprised of civilians from Spain, West Germany, Canada and a Latin American member-nation of the Group of 8. [The Group of 8 at present is comprised of only seven countries: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.] The suit before the International Court of Justice (the UN's legal arm) accuses Honduras of violating international law by permitting contra bases on its national territory. Ortega mentioned that thousands of contras are currently training at base camps in Yamales and Capira, Honduras, supported by US humanitarian aid. The contras claim that at least 11,000 fighters are located at the camps. "If the contras are training, it is to continue their terrorist attacks against Nicaragua," said Ortega. The president added, "We could reach an agreement outside the Court, but we would retain the possibility of recourse to the International Court of Justice if we believe the other side is violating the accord." (Basic data from UPI, 08/25/88)

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