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22 Die In Contra Attack In Eastern Nicaragua

by Deborah Tyroler

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According to a Nov. 25 report by the Defense Ministry, early on the morning of Nov. 23, 12 Nicaraguan civilians and 10 contras died during a contra attack on a village, El Guabo, located 29 km. northeast of Villa Sandino, Chontales department. The ministry communique stated that another four civilians were wounded in the incident, and a woman abducted by the contras. Local residents reportedly confiscated weapons and foodstuffs left by the contras. Next, the communique asserted that the Nov. 23 incident provides further evidence that the contras have systematically violated the ceasefire rather than the Sandinista army, contrary to the pronouncements of the Reagan administration. Unnamed sources at the site of the fighting told the Associated Press that the contra attack was launched against an Army operations base in El Guabo. Since the permanent ceasefire talks broke down in June, the Nicaraguan government has renewed the ceasefire on a monthly basis. On Nov. 24, in San Juan del Sur at a meeting with a Costa Rican delegation, Interior Minister Tomas Borge said that the government continues renewing the ceasefire to provide continuity to the Sapoa agreement. (Basic data from AP, 11/26/88)

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