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Deborah Tyroler

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Nicaragua: War Not Over Yet

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Jan. 20 in Managua, government officials were relieved and proud after having survived eight years of US military, economic and political pressure under the Reagan administration. However, officials said they did not yet feel victorious because the war continues. In its Friday edition, the FSLN's (Sandinista National Liberation Front) official newspaper, Barricada, published an interview Commander Bayardo Arce, deputy coordinator of the FSLN's political commission. Arce said that the departure of the Reagan administration does not mean the end of the war with the contras. He pointed out that thousands of people armed by Reagan remain in Honduras, who are capable of continuing military operations. Regarding the administration of George Bush, Arce said that according to analyses of US strategies and US political observers, there are possibilities for a change in policy toward Nicaragua. At present, said Arce, it would not be product for the Nicaraguan government to lower its guard. Meanwhile, he added, the government is willing to promote all possible means to achieve peace and to engage in "maximum preparation" for this eventuality. (Basic data from AP, 01/20/89)

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