President Ortega Dismisses Allegations That Argentine Rebels Trained In Nicaragua

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On Jan. 25, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega categorically denied that any individual among a group of about 50 persons who attacked an Argentine military barracks on Jan. 23 had been trained in Nicaragua. In the attack, 36 died and 63 were wounded. The source of such allegation was the contras' clandestine station, Radio Liberacion, believed to be located in Honduras. The radio broadcast claimed that it had received reports from Buenos Aires on the alleged participation of Nicaraguans in the attack on the barracks, and that other attackers had previously resided in Nicaragua and received several months of training there. Radio Liberacion said that members of the attack group had gone to Nicaragua under the cover of assisting in the coffee harvest, and that the leader of the group was apparently Nicaraguan. In response to a question by the Associated Press, Ortega said that such rumors were "typical of those who wish to involve Nicaragua in all events that take place in Latin America, Europe and other countries." Ortega responded to questions briefly during a meeting with Methodist bishops in Latin America and the US at the Olaf Palme convention center in Managua. (Basic data from AP, 01/26/89)

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