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## Nicaraguan Embassy In Honduras Attacked

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

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Early on Jan. 29, the home of Nicaragua's Ambassador to Honduras, Francisco Lacayo Parajon, was attacked by gunmen in a passing automobile. The gunmen used 9mm sub-machineguns and .38-caliber automatic weapons. Embassy spokesperson Juan Jose Membreno said the ambassador was in bed at the time, no one was injured and there was no major damage sustained by the attack other than bullet holes in the walls. Membreno said, "The contras accused my government of responsibility in the [Jan. 7] assassination of anti-Sandinista chief Manuel Rugama and announced they would take actions against our diplomatic representatives." He added that since Rugama's killing the Nicaraguan Embassy has received "continuous death threats from people identifying themselves as members of the contras." The Nicaraguan government requested further investigation into the telephone threats and that security around the embassy be increased. According to Membreno, the "Honduran Foreign Ministry did not respond to the request." He added that the government of Honduras only placed one guard at the Nicaraguan Embassy and one at the ambassador's residence. "The Honduran policeman on guard duty was not there" at the time of the attack, Membreno said, although the guard was known to take occasional breaks. In a communique dispatched on the evening of Jan. 30 to the Honduran Foreign Ministry, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto described the attack as "deplorable." He reminded Honduran officials that the guard assigned to the ambassador's home was absent at the time of the attack, and that Nicaraguan requests for increased security have been ignored. "On one occasion," said D'Escoto, "we noticed that the guard in charge of protecting the Embassy was a contra... Moreover, this same guard was a person who had been wounded while fighting in Nicaragua." (Basic data from AP, AFP 01/30/89; Xinhua, 01/31/89)

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