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Honduras Supports Bush Administration's Intent To Request Humanitarian Aid For Contras

by Deborah Tyroler

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On March 14, Marco Tulio Romero, spokesperson for President Jose Azcona Hoyo said that the Bush administration's projected request for more aid to Nicaraguan rebels does not contradict the Central American presidents' Feb. 14 agreement to dismantle the contra army. "The accord...reached in El Salvador does not rule out humanitarian help before the dismantling (of the rebel force)," he said. Azcona and his four Central American counterparts agreed to draft a plan by May 15 to demobilize the contras. US Embassy spokesperson in Tegucigalpa, Charles Barclay, said, "They (the Bush administration) want something that'll see us through well into the Nicaraguan election." At a news conference, Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras said, "It is in Honduras' interests that these armed insurgent groups don't remain orphans without humanitarian aid from the United States. It could become a real problem for national security." (Basic data from AP, 03/14/89)

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