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Venezuelan President Asked To Pressure Nicaraguan Government By U.S.

by Deborah Tyroler

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On March 30, Secretary of State James Baker requested that Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez use his influence to ensure that the presidents of El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras insist on linking dismantlement of the contra forces to specific democratic reforms undertaken by the Nicaraguan government. Perez accompanied Baker to Washington on the latter's jet after the two attended a conference on Latin America at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Ga. Baker told reporters: "We don't want them to decide on a plan that says to the Sandinistas: 'You are supposed to make these reforms along this schedule and meanwhile we will demobilize the contras.' We don't want to see the contras demobilized unless they can participate in the electoral process as a legal opposition." (Basic data from New York Times, 03/31/89)

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