

4-5-1989

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### Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesperson On International Observer Force In Central America, & Related Matters." (1989). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/2897>

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## **Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesperson On International Observer Force In Central America, & Related Matters**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

*Published: Wednesday, April 5, 1989*

On April 4 in Moscow, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesperson Vadim Perfilyev told reporters that the decision by Central American governments to request the United Nations to establish an international observer force was a "practical step" in implementing regional peace accords. The observer force is to monitor security provisions, mainly the prohibition against assistance to "irregular" armies, and the use of national territory as a staging ground against a neighboring country. Perfilyev said, "As a permanent [UN] Security Council member, the Soviet Union is ready to render assistance in creating such a mechanism and ensuring its efficiency." On a Honduran suggestion regarding dismantlement of the Nicaraguan contra forces, Perfilyev said: "The Soviet Union believes that the Honduran proposal to link this issue to the demobilization of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front detachments in El Salvador, which was supported by Costa Rica and El Salvador, contradicts the spirit and letter of the agreements reached at the most recent meeting of Central American presidents." He added that such proposal could become a serious obstacle to implementing the Feb. 14 agreements. Other proposals discussed recently by foreign ministers in San Jose aimed at prolonging the process of contra dismantlement until February 1990, said Perfilyev, are also causes for concern. "All these factors considerably reduce hope in the world community for a Central American settlement...Nevertheless, the Soviet Union expects the negotiating process in the region to continue and to bring about in the long run the full normalization of the situation," said Perfilyev. (Basic data from Tass, 04/04/89)

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