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Nicaragua To Request $150 Million From U.N. High Commission For Refugees

by Deborah Tyroler
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According to an April 14 report by Notimex, UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) representative Jean Pierre Hocke will visit Nicaragua to meet with President Daniel Ortega, Vice President Sergio Ramirez, Interior Minister Tomas Borge, and representatives of human rights organizations and the Nicaraguan Red Cross, among other officials. The objective of the visit is to gather information in connection with an international conference on refugees, displaced persons and repatriates scheduled for early May in Guatemala. Notimex cited unidentified unofficial sources as saying that Nicaragua will request $150 million in aid from the UNHCR, destined for repatriation and relocation of displaced persons who have been affected by war. The aid would benefit more than 8,000 refugees in Nicaragua 95% of whom are Salvadoran, and thousands of Nicaraguans living outside the country who would receive assistance to reintegrate themselves into the country's economy. The sources told Notimex that since 1986 more than 25,000 Nicaraguans have been repatriated. Of the total, 17,500 returned to Nicaragua with the assistance of the UNHCR. In the next few days, they said, another 4,000 Misquitos will return to Nicaragua from Honduras.

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