

4-19-1989

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Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Nicaragua: 14 Opposition Parties Request Mediation By Cardinal Obando Toward Resumption Of "national Dialogue"." (1989). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/2957>

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Nicaragua: 14 Opposition Parties Request Mediation By Cardinal Obando Toward Resumption Of "national Dialogue"

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, April 19, 1989

On April 15, representatives of 14 domestic opposition parties requested in a letter to Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo that he intercede with President Daniel Ortega to resume negotiations "to find a solution to the country's internal crisis." The Cardinal heads the National Reconciliation Commission, established in fulfillment of the 1987 regional peace agreement. The 14 parties asserted that the Commission is the most appropriate body to verify fulfillment of the Feb. 14 Central American summit accord. The letter said, "We come to you with the objective of denouncing the procedures followed by President Ortega in that they violate the Central American commitments." Next, the parties accused Ortega of ignoring a list of electoral reform proposals they presented in a document dated April 5, and signed by leaders of the 14 parties. The period for presenting reform proposals has already expired. The National Assembly must approve electoral and media legislation reforms before April 25, as specified in the Feb. 14 summit agreement. (Basic data from Notimex, 04/15/89)

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