4-21-1989

Nicaraguan Government Completes Draft Plan For Dismantlement Of Contra Army

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen

Recommended Citation
https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/2967

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.
Nicaraguan Government Completes Draft Plan For Dismantlement Of Contra Army

by Deborah Tyroler
Category/Department: General
Published: Friday, April 21, 1989

On April 17, President Daniel Ortega announced that his government had completed a proposal for dismantling the contra army camped in Honduras. He also reiterated a pledge that former contras and persons charged with collaborating with the contra army would be released from Nicaraguan prisons once the Central American presidents had approved the plan for the repatriation and dismantlement of the contra forces. Ortega made the announcement after a meeting with Jean Pierre Hocke, representative of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). The president said that plan includes the establishment of a support and verification commission to be headed by the secretaries general of the United Nations and the Organization of American States. Commission participants would include the International Red Cross and other neutral international organizations. In addition to monitoring the dismantlement, repatriation and relocation aspects of the program, the commission would oversee contra disarmament. Under the Nicaraguan plan, weapons and military supplies held by the contra army would be turned over to the Honduran government. The Nicaraguan proposal is to be examined by the five Central American presidents at a summit now scheduled for June in Honduras. Under the Nicaraguan plan, approval by the presidents for a plan to demobilize, repatriate and relocate the contra army, would lead to the immediate release of prisoners held by the contras, and by the Nicaraguan government. Contras who accept repatriation could participate in the February 1990 elections. Ortega said his government had prepared a program to assist contra repatriates establish an economic livelihood. Under the program, repatriates would receive land, tools and credit for agricultural production. The amount of assistance received by repatriates, however, is contingent on the government's resources, and support received by the UNHCR, the OAS, the Red Cross and other sources for such purposes. (Basic data from Notimex, Prensa Latina, 04/17/89)

-- End --