Nicaraguan President On European Tour

Deborah Tyroler
Nicaraguan President On European Tour

by Deborah Tyrolo
Category/Department: General
Published: Wednesday, April 26, 1989

On April 23, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega arrived in Paris, the first stop on a two-week European tour. On the following day, Ortega was scheduled to meet with President Francois Mitterrand and Premier Michel Rocard. The European tour is aimed at seeking financial assistance for Nicaragua's ailing economy, and diplomatic support. The Nicaraguan leader's schedule also includes stops in Belgium, Spain, Norway, Greece, Italy, Sweden, Ireland, West Germany and Britain. At an interview with AP at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Paris, Ortega said, "I'm asking the international community to call for the lifting of the embargo imposed by the United States. He said he was seeking a "more active, more aggressive attitude" from Europe in supporting the regional peace plan. "This peace plan is endangered by pressure in Central America from rightist groups who reject the peace proposals, as well as by pressure from the United States, where some people don't accept that we, the Central Americans, might be able to give our own response to a problem that affects the peoples of Central America above all." In an interview published April 23 in Spanish daily newspaper El Pais, Ortega was quoted as saying Nicaragua needs a minimum of $250 million in aid to deal with its economic crisis. He also said that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl "could contribute actively toward peace as intermediaries with the United States." (Basic data from AP, 04/23/89)

-- End --