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Deborah Tyroler

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Miskito Rebel Leaders Plan Return To Nicaragua; Attempt To Obtain Funds For Repatriation Of Indian Refugees

by Deborah Tyroler
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In recent interviews with the New York Times (04/19/89), Miskito Indian rebel leaders Stedman Fagoth and Brooklyn Rivera said they planned to return to Nicaragua within 60 days. Both said they were attempting to obtain financial aid from the US and Western Europe for repatriation of thousands of Indian refugees in Honduras. Fagoth lives in Miami, and Rivera has visited Washington in recent weeks to lobby congresspersons for repatriation money. Fagoth and Rivera, directors of the Yatama organization, said two other directors would join them in Managua: Julian Comenios, who lives in Honduras, and Walter Ortiz, a refugee residing in Costa Rica. Most Miskito rebel leaders have refused to join the US-funded contra army based in Honduras, titled the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN). They argue that they are fighting for regional autonomy, not to depose the government in Managua. Most of the Indians are Protestants and speak English or the Miskito language. Most other Nicaraguans are Roman Catholic and speak Spanish.

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