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Nicaragua: Costa Rican Ambassador's Activities Under Investigation By Government

by Deborah Tyroler
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On April 29, the FSLN's official newspaper, Barricada, reported that the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry is investigating reports that Costa Rican Ambassador Farid Ayales participated in plans to discredit the Nicaraguan government. Barricada quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera as saying the ministry "is evaluating with extreme caution" information that the ambassador engaged in activities "outside his diplomatic functions." Pro-government newspaper El Nuevo Diario reported April 28 that Ayales had met with Nicaraguan opposition leaders and a US Embassy official "to prepare a foreign campaign of accusations" against the government. The Diario said the campaign would seek to discredit electoral law reforms approved April 18 by the legislature for the general election next February. The newspaper attributed its information to unidentified opposition party sources. Talavera told Barricada there are no restrictions on foreign diplomats meeting with opposition figures but it was "intolerable under international law" for diplomats to "become activists or leaders of local political organizations." Talavera also said Nicaraguan officials had "made some observations" to Ayales several months ago about his conduct in Nicaragua. (Basic data from AP, 04/30/89)

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