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West German Chancellor Sets Conditions On Aid To Nicaragua

by Deborah Tyroler

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On May 9 in Bonn, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega that his government would resume foreign aid to Managua after Nicaragua had made improvements in several areas, including human rights, participation by the Nicaraguan opposition in the Feb. 1990 elections, and talks with Roman Catholic clergy officials, among other variables. The ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU) caters to a Roman Catholic constituency, and is described as center-right in political orientation. The CDU's coalition partner, the Christian Social Union (CSU), based in Bavaria, is also responsive to Roman Catholics. Kohl mentioned that Bonn is willing in principle to participate in an international observer team to monitor the Central American peace process under the auspices of the United Nations. He added that his government could not make a decision on this matter until the UN submits a formal request. Ortega said his main objective during the European tour was to resume contacts with Western European leaders, and that he had achieved that goal. The Nicaraguan president said he hoped Bonn would reject US pressure and participate in the May conference on Nicaragua in Stockholm. Ortega also met with West German President Richard von Weizsaecker, opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) chairman Hans-Jochen Vogel, the SPD's Central America expert Hans-Juergen Wischnewski, and SPD standard-bearer Willy Brandt, who is president of the Socialist International. Vogel and Wischnewski assured Ortega of their party's continued support for Nicaragua. Before departing for Hamburg and Bremen, Ortega met with Bonn's Development Aid Minister Juergen Warnke, who is scheduled to visit Nicaragua in June. On May 10 in Hamburg, Mayor Hennig Voscherau signed a development cooperation pact with counterpart Luis Felipe Perez Caldera of the Nicaraguan city of Leon. (Basic data from DPA, 05/09/89, 05/10/89)