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Nicaragua: Differences Among Opposition Coalition Delay Preparations For Election Campaign

by Deborah Tyroler
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On May 19, Francisco Tablada, vice president of the Social Christian Party (PSC), told AFP that the opposition coalition known as the Group of 15 "may not be organized until after August." The opposition, he said, "has wasted time and energy in activities that are not specifically aimed at organizing and preparing for the electoral process." According to Tablada, the most serious issue which threatens to divide the opposition into two factions is whether to accept contra leaders into its ranks. On May 17, Vice President Sergio Ramirez reiterated that within the next few days the Supreme Electoral Council would be established, comprised of two members appointed by the political opposition, two appointed by the government, and a fifth member who is to be a "neutral, independent, respected" person. Next, on Thursday, President Daniel Ortega said the government would make no more concessions to opposition parties and that the ruling party would go to the polls alone if opposition parties boycott the February 1990 vote. In the case of a boycott, he said, the ballot would become "a great people's referendum on the revolution." The opposition has insisted on additional reforms in electoral and media legislation. Ortega said "the little game has ended" and opposition requests were illegal. (Basic data from AFP, 05/19/89)

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