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On June 11, contra leader Alfredo Cesar returned to Nicaragua, ending seven years of exile. He told reporters at the Managua international airport after arriving from Miami via Guatemala that he planned to join the political struggle in Nicaragua through participation in the Social Democrat Party. Cesar was president of the Nicaraguan Central Bank when he left the country on April 25, 1982. Cesar refused to say whether he had resigned from the seven-member directorate of the Miami-based Nicaraguan Resistance, the contra umbrella organization. He said his last meeting with the directorate was "four or five days ago." Next, Cesar said he would not seek political office in the general elections scheduled for February 1990. Another contra leader, and former member of the directorate, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, had been expected to return along with Cesar. His absence was attributed to documentation problems. According to AFP, Cesar and 10 other former contras returned to Nicaragua aboard an aircraft chartered by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. All were immediately taken by security agents to an airport office, where they signed an affidavit pledging they were not members of any armed group. They then headed to a Managua neighborhood where they were welcomed by an estimated 2,000 opposition activists. Cesar told the group, "I did not come here to visit but to stay," adding that he would rejoin the Social Democratic Party and back the opposition's single presidential candidate in the planned February elections. Unidentified diplomatic sources cited by Notimex said Cesar would be the US State Department's likely choice for the opposition's presidential candidate in the 1990 election. Among the other contras accompanying Cesar were Frank Cesar, Ricardo Guerrero, Carlos Hurtado, and Enrique Delgadillo, all leaders of the South Opposition Bloc (BOS). According to Social Democrat Party president Guillermo Putoy, the BOS has merged with the party. [The Social Democratic Party (PSD), established in 1979, is not recognized by the Socialist International and has no international affiliation. The PSD is one of the parties in the conservative Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinator (Coordinadora), and did not participate in the 1984 elections. Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, who left La Prensa to join the contras, was a leading member, as was Fernando Chamorro Rappaccioli, who in 1981 founded UDN-FARN, a contra organization based in Costa Rica. The PSD is known to be strongly anti-communist, and has tended to seek guidance from the Catholic Church hierarchy. For years, the PSD blamed the Sandinistas for militarization of Nicaragua, persecution of the Church, and dependence on socialist countries. PSD leaders have been quoted as supporting the US invasion of Grenada, and that unfortunately a military solution may be the only alternative in Nicaragua. Membership reportedly peaked at 5,000 in 1981, but sharply declined in the following six years.] (Basic data from Notimex, AP, AFP, 06/11/89; CAU files)

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