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Nicaragua: Government Confiscates Property After Three Coffee Producers Call For Ouster Of Sandinistas

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On June 21, the Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform Ministry decreed the expropriation of capital assets belonging to Arnoldo Aleman, national president of the Nicaraguan Coffeegrowers Union (UNCAFENIC); Nicolas Bolanos, a Union leader; and, Jaime Cuadra, Union president in Matagalpa. UNCAFENIC is a member of the Superior Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP), a long-time source of strong opposition against the government. On June 18, UNCAFENIC leaders decided to withdraw participation from the government's National Coffee Commission. They also called on Nicaraguans to oust the Sandinistas to form a "National Salvation Government." In its June 22 issue, daily newspaper of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, Barricada, said the government's decision to expropriate the coffee producers' assets was adopted to maintain production stability in the face of anarchy and boycott policies promoted by a minority of producers. Barricada wrote, "The intent to insert partisan politics in the country's most important and sensitive economic sector demonstrates the lack of scruples, irresponsibility and rabid extremism by a minority of producers...In [Nicaragua]...political liberties exist for any extremist to channel his passion via any party which pleases him, but not to sabotage production." (Basic data from Notimex, 06/22/89)

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