Nicaragua Denies Involvement In Assassination Plots

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According to a June 29 report by Xinhua, for several days the Honduran press has published accounts of "confessions" by Orlando Solorzano, a Nicaraguan who allegedly claimed to have been instructed to assassinate President Jose Azcona, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa Hector Enrique Santos, and presidential candidates Carlos Flores and Rafael Leonardo Callejas. On June 28, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry issued a communique describing the Honduran press reports as "false and slanderous campaigns aimed at isolating and discrediting Nicaragua." The ministry said Solarzano, identified as an "army man," was never a soldier in the Sandinista People's Army." The communique stated that Solarzano was hired by the Interior Ministry on Aug. 20, 1979, and attained the rank of lieutenant before being dismissed on Jan. 28, 1987, after having committed a large number of infractions and being subjected to a "long list of penalties." Later he was reportedly employed as a guard at the Intercontinental Hotel. On June 24, the Honduran Foreign Ministry accused Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto of mounting a slander campaign against Honduras and President Azcona in order to boycott the upcoming regional summit. (Basic data from Xinhua, 06/29/89)

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