

8-16-1989

Nicaraguan Contra Commanders Seek Political Asylum In U.S.

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen>

Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Nicaraguan Contra Commanders Seek Political Asylum In U.S.." (1989). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/3279>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

Nicaraguan Contra Commanders Seek Political Asylum In U.S.

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, August 16, 1989

Since the publication of the text of the Central American summit agreement on Aug. 7, several contra commanders have requested political asylum in the US. On Aug. 9, Israel Galeano (Comandante Franklyn) applied for asylum in Miami. Galeano is described as head of the joint chiefs of staff of the contras' "northern front." On Aug. 10, the Immigration and Naturalization Service said that nine contra commanders had applied for political asylum the day before, and three were immediately granted refugee status. The INS said that the remaining requests, and one from a contra political adviser, were being processed as quickly as possible at the request of the State Department. State Department spokesperson Margaret Tutwiler said the contra leaders' intent was not to reside in the US, but rather to facilitate their free movement around Central America. In Miami, contra political adviser Xavier Arguello said, "Up to now, contra military commanders have been traveling using Honduran documents. They do not have Nicaraguan passports. And the Honduran provisional documents are very inconvenient. It is very difficult to get a visa with them." The three granted refugee status were Galeano, Francisco Delgadillo (Comandante Johnny), and Luis Angel Lopez (Comandante Leonel). They cannot return to Nicaragua without jeopardizing their refugee status. The Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs denounced the decision to grant the three refugee status as "a shocking action which violates normal Immigration Service procedures for granting such status." (Basic data from UPI, 08/09/89; Washington Post, 08/11/89)

-- End --