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## **Costa Rican President On Contra Demobilization**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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In an interview broadcast on the evening of Aug. 11 in Washington, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias said the Nicaraguan contras will repatriate if Managua offers them proper incentives. "The disbanding of the contras will be possible. They will be able to go back to Nicaragua, to repatriate...only if the Sandinistas offer them the necessary economic, social and political incentives," Arias said in the interview from San Jose. "If they are not able to participate in the electoral process, they won't go back. If they don't see any economic future for their families, they won't go back," said Arias. Arias also welcomed the announcement that the USSR plans to suspend military aid to the Nicaraguan government: "The Sandinistas do not require any more military aid...We all know they have the income per capita today of the early 1920's. So they don't need any more tanks or airplanes or helicopters or machine guns what they need is economic aid," he said. On the upcoming elections in Nicaragua, Arias said, "We might think that they are not going to hold free and fair elections...But, after all, aren't we satisfied with elections held in Poland? Aren't we satisfied with elections held in Hungary?" (Basic data from AFP, 08/11/89)

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