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Notes On Requests For U.N. Actions In Central American Peace Process

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Aug. 16, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced he will dispatch a team to Central America in September to determine what is needed for demobilization of the Nicaraguan contras. In an Aug. 7 summit agreement, the presidents of El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua requested that the UN form a commission within 30 days to oversee the disbanding of the 10,000 to 12,000 contra fighters encamped in Honduras. The summit agreement stated that three months after the group's formation, the demobilization process for the disbandment, repatriation or relocation of the Nicaraguan Resistance rebels to other countries should be completed. On Aug. 16, Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras announced that a formal request had been delivered by Honduran Ambassador to the UN, Roberto Martinez, to Security Council president Hocime Djoudi to establish the peacekeeping force charged with overseeing the country's border areas with Nicaragua and El Salvador. West Germany, Spain and Canada are to participate in the peacekeeping force that must be approved by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council the US, the Soviet Union, France, Britain and China. Martinez said that the force "would guarantee that Honduran border areas are not used by rebels of those countries." He added, "The functions of the force would be inspection and coercive action when necessary." Honduras has requested that the Council president convene a meeting between the US and the Soviet Union with the objective of reaching an agreement to support peace in Central America. In addition, Tegucigalpa has requested that the UN arrange talks between the US and Central American nations, and between the US and Nicaragua. According to Martinez, "We are in the final stretch of the Central American peace process. I don't believe that once disarmed, there will be any obstacles for members of the Nicaraguan Resistance to establish themselves in any country in Central America." (Basic data from AFP, Xinhua, 08/16/89)

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