9-8-1989

Nicaragua: Top Level Contra Commander Killed In Clash With Army

Deborah Tyroler

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

Recommended Citation
https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/3356

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.
Nicaragua: Top Level Contra Commander Killed In Clash With Army

by Deborah Tyroler
Category/Department: General
Published: Friday, September 8, 1989

According to a report broadcast by government station Radio Sandino on Sept. 7, contra commander Rafael Rodriguez Valle (a.k.a. Nelson), and seven of his men died Sept. 3 in a clash with government troops near Waslala, Jinotega department, 160 km. northeast of Managua. Rodriguez, commander of the "Hermenegildo Gonzalez Valle" company of the Fifth Operational Brigade, entered Nicaraguan territory from Honduras with 39 men on Aug. 20. Their mission was to carry supplies, communications equipment, 250 million cordobas (about $10,000) and a "large quantity of dollars" to contras operating inside Nicaragua. The government estimates that 2,000 contras are currently engaged in offensive operations in Nicaraguan territory. The supplies were solicited from the CIA by contra fighters pertaining to Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), the Wenceslao Aviles Independent Front and the Jorge Salazar II Battalion, said Radio Sandino. The 27-year-old Rodriguez Valle joined the contra army in 1983 and was named task force chief in 1985. Later he became an top commander of the Jorge Salazar II Battalion. The Battalion's operations were concentrated in eastern Nicaragua. According to the radio report, the surviving 32 contras scattered after the clash with the army. In addition to all the cash, they made off with as much of the supplies as they could carry. Radio Sandino said the contra high command has ordered the capture and assassination of Rodriguez Valle's security guard who are charged with robbing the money. Because of the robbery, said the radio report, the contras cannot justify the failure of the mission to the CIA.

-- End --