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Nicaraguan Troop Numbers Down 30% Since Peak Of War With Contras

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In statements to reporters on Sept. 27, Army spokesperson Col. Hugo Torres Jimenez said the number of Nicaraguans on active military duty in the army is currently 30% less than the total at the peak of the government's war with the contras. He asserted that once the contra army has been dismantled, and conditions for peace established, troop strength will be substantially reduced from present levels. At the high point of the war, Sandinista Popular Army (EPS) regular troops numbered about 250,000. The military absorbed between 50% and 60% of the national budget. (Basic data from Notimex, 09/27/89)

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