10-18-1989

U.N.-o.a.s. Commission Meets With Contras Camped In Honduras

Deborah Tyroler

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

Recommended Citation

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.
U.N.-o.a.s. Commission Meets With Contras Camped In Honduras

by Deborah Tyroler
Category/Department: General
Published: Wednesday, October 18, 1989

On Oct. 12, a special United Nations and Organization of American States commission met for the first time with Nicaraguan contra troops in Yamales, Honduras. The International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV) was created in August after the Central American presidents signed an accord calling for the "voluntary demobilization, repatriation or relocation" of the contra army within 90 days. The commission is charged with overseeing the voluntary demobilization and guaranteeing the safety of former contras who repatriate. Addressing 2,500 uniformed contras, the commission members urged them to dismantle, stating that the Central American presidents' plan was the best option since their reason for being had disappeared. Senior UN official Francesc Vendrell told them: "You are Nicaraguans, patriots and people of Nicaragua. Don't let yourselves become the subject of a policy that perhaps has already become an anachronism, and don't stay here to be abandoned by a country that once helped you." Vendrell and OAS counterpart Hugo de Zela met with members of a negotiating committee headed by contra military leader Enrique Bermudez, and with 43 contra officers and representatives of the estimated 50,000 family members and dependents. At a press conference on Oct. 13 in Tegucigalpa, Vendrell said that in conversations with the US State Department, the CIAV has the impression that the US is willing to contribute economically to the CIAV's work. (Basic data from Notimex, 10/13/89; New York Times, 10/15/89)

-- End --