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Deborah Tyroler

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## **Nicaraguan Government Approves Six Entry Visas For U.S. Diplomats**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Jan. 7, an unidentified Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry source cited by AP said the government has approved six entry visas for US diplomats to permit the minimum number of officers at the US Embassy in Managua. Twenty US diplomats were expelled from Nicaragua on Dec. 29 in retaliation for a raid by US troops on the Nicaraguan ambassador's residence in Panama City. Nine US diplomats were left in place, including Charge d'Affaires John Leonard. Under international conventions, the minimum number of diplomats in a foreign mission is 15. Leonard has been the chief US diplomat in Managua since July 1988, when the Nicaraguan government expelled US Ambassador Richard Melton and seven other US diplomats, accusing them of meddling in Nicaragua's internal affairs. Washington retaliated by expelling the same number of Nicaraguan diplomats. (Basic data from AP, 01/07/90)

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