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Repatriation Of Nicaraguan Contras Begins

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Jan. 7, Barricada reported that a former contra commander and nine foot soldiers in the contra army have agreed to be repatriated to Nicaragua in the first such case under the contra dismantlement program contained in two separate regional summit agreements. Barricada is the official daily newspaper of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). A United Nations-Organization of American States task force was created under the agreement to supervise contra demobilization, repatriation and relocation. The UN-OAS effort is called the International Verification and Support Commission (CIAV). Barricada said the 10 men, including Cmdr. Luis Fley Gonzalez, plan to return home from Honduras Jan. 8 following talks with Nicaragua's ambassador in Tegucigalpa, Francisco Lacayo. Fley was a lawyer for the contras, and a top official at the contra office in the Honduran capital. AP cited Fley as saying that the group decided to repatriate as an expression of support for the Central American peace process and to "contribute to the process of national reconciliation." Former contras who wish to vote in the Feb. 25 elections must return to Nicaragua by Feb. 5. (Basic data from AFP, 01/07/90; Xinhua, 01/08/90; AP, 01/08/90)

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