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On Oct. 18, the Colombian government submitted an amnesty bill to the national congress aimed at demobilization of leftist guerrillas. The legislature must vote on the bill within the next six months. If approved, individual guerrillas or guerrilla organizations would submit formal requests for amnesty, and a government commission would then have two months to render a decision on each individual request. The amnesty is part of a negotiated settlement with the April 19 Movement (M-19) rebels, who take their name from the date of a 1970 presidential election described by many Colombians as fraudulent. Under an agreement negotiated with the government, upon receiving amnesty guerrillas would be required to surrender their weapons. M-19 has requested that its members be permitted to turn themselves in to an international organization such as the United Nations or the International Red Cross, or even to Germany's Green Party. The amnesty excludes guerrillas guilty of crimes committed outside the context of combat, e.g., those who killed persons who had no means of self-defense, or who have participated in terrorist attacks promoted by drug traffickers. (Basic data from Notimex, 10/18/89)

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