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Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister: Next Central American Summit Should Be Managua To Discuss Size Of Armies

by Deborah Tyroler

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In statements to reporters on March 3, Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said that the next Central American summit should take place in Managua before President Daniel Ortega steps down. A major agenda item, he said, would be the size of Central American armies to be adjusted to each nation's security needs. Notimex cited unidentified "unofficial" reports indicating that the next summit will take place at the end of March, and the top agenda item is contra demobilization. At a February 1989 summit, Central American presidents agreed to support contra demobilization, and the Nicaraguan president offered to schedule national elections nine months ahead of time, and to open the electoral process to international scrutiny. The presidents were to meet again within 90 days (late May) to establish a detailed framework for contra repatriation, dismantlement and relocation. Very little was accomplished in terms of planning for contra demobilization in the ensuing three months, and the presidents did not reconvene until August. In Tela, Honduras, in August 1989, the Central American presidents agreed that the contras must leave Honduras and disarm, under the supervision of a United Nations commission, before year-end. Once again, nothing was accomplished, the deadline came and went. Nicaraguan officials assert that the government has fulfilled its pledges under the Central American peace accords, and continues to wait for co-signatories to meet their own pledges. (Basic data from Notimex, 03/03/90)

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