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Nicaraguan President-elect Requests Costa Rican Leader's Support In Creating Demilitarized Central America

by Deborah Tyroler

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On March 6, president-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro traveled to the Costa Rican city of Liberia, located 40 miles from the Costa Rican border, for talks with President Oscar Arias. She praised Arias for a plan he devised in 1987 that earned him the Nobel Peace Prize, and requested that he endorse her proposal that Central America declare itself a demilitarized zone. Barrios de Chamorro has proposed that the presidents of Central America sign an agreement declaring the region demilitarized, to be signed by Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, and endorsed by all Latin American countries. The Nicaraguan president-elect takes office on April 25. Arias is scheduled to leave office on May 8. He will be replaced by Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier who the Feb. 5 elections. (Basic data from AP, UPI, 03/06/90)

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