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## **Nicaragua: Army Delivers Rifles To Civilians**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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According to the AP, the Nicaraguan army is delivering assault rifles in Jinotega and Matagalpa departments to civilians who live in poor neighborhoods. When confronted with the evidence of such deliveries, high-ranking government officials said they were helping civilians defend themselves against possible contra attacks, and to help beneficiaries of land reform retain their properties after the National Opposition Unity (UNO) government takes power. UNO officials say they have reports of weapons being distributed in several other departments, and that the issue is on the agenda for transition negotiations between the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and UNO. (Basic data from AP, 03/07/90)

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