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## **Nicaragua: Contra Attack Leaves 15 Dead, 8 Wounded**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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According to a report by the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry, 12 government troops died and eight were wounded when about 100 contras ambushed two army vehicles in the area around Jinotega. In addition, four contras were killed. Medical sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity to AP, said in a telephone interview that the attack occurred on Friday afternoon. The Defense Ministry reported at least two clashes since March 23 in northern Nicaragua resulting in the deaths of 16 people. About 100 contras seized a passenger truck on the evening of March 25, robbed the occupants of cash and jewelry and returned the vehicle only after its owner paid a \$500 ransom. All incidents took place near the provincial capital of Jinotega, near the Honduran border. (Basic data from AP, 03/26/90)

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