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Honduran Legislator Proposes Voluntary Military Service

by Deborah Tyroler

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According to the May 30 edition of El Heraldo, the Honduran military staged a "veiled" coup in response to debate in the National Congress to eliminate obligatory military service. Legislator Gustavo Alfaro presented a proposal to substitute obligatory with voluntary service, result of the army's current brutal recruiting practices. Armed forces spokesperson Col. Oscar Flores mentioned the 1904 coup when then-President Manuel Bonilla ordered the arrests of nine congresspersons and dissolved the national legislature. He asserted that in response to the legislative debate, the army "will not be corralled, and is not trembling. It is a tiger." (Basic data from Notimex, 05/30/90)

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