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U.S. Resumes Rejection Of Nicaraguans' Asylum Requests

by Deborah Tyroler

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On July 20 in Washington, spokesperson for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Duke Austin, said the INS has resumed issuing letters of denial to Nicaraguans seeking asylum in the US, after a five-month suspension. An estimated 12,000 Nicaraguans whose requests for asylum have been rejected will receive letters within the next few months, he said. According to Austin, the INS is satisfied that the government of President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro has asserted control over the country and resisted "challenges" by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). Another estimated 25,000 asylum requests from Nicaraguans are still pending. In fiscal year 1989, the INS granted slightly less than 6,000 requests from Nicaraguans for asylum, denying more than 10,000. Between October 1989 and January 1990, about 500 were granted and 650 denied. (Basic data from AP, 07/20/90)

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