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U.S. Ambassador Says U.S. Troop Presence In Honduras Not Likely To Be Cut In Near Future

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Aug. 3 in Tegucigalpa, during an interview with a local news source, US Ambassador Crescencio Arcos said that while the US military presence in Central America has been reduced in the wake of declining tensions, "there is no definitive decision to reduce our presence [in Honduras], particularly at the Palmerola base." Regarding discussion to reduce Central American governments' military forces, Arcos said that because conflicts continue in some parts of the region, the important question is not reduction per se, but rather the security needs of each government. The Honduran armed forces number about 27,000. The military budget this year was cut by 10% to about \$60 million. The US Congress contributed \$20 million in military assistance, bring Honduran military spending to \$80 million. (Basic data from EFE, 08/03/90)

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