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Nicaragua: Negotiations Underway With U.S. On Compensation For War Damages

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Aug. 13, Minister of the Presidency Antonio Lacayo told reporters that negotiations between Managua and Washington are underway over a 1986 World Court ruling ordering the US to pay Nicaragua for damages for its role in promoting the nine-year war. Until recently, the US government has ignored the ruling, claiming that the court, a branch of the United Nations, had no jurisdiction. Lacayo said, "The government will try to find a negotiated solution to the matter within the framework of the new type of relations between Nicaragua and the United States." The minister did not say whether President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's government will demand compensation as did the government of former president Daniel Ortega. A recent editorial appearing in La Prensa referred to the World Court case as "a cloud darkening good relations" between Nicaragua and the United States. US Embassy spokesperson Stedman Howard acknowledged that negotiations on the World Court case are underway, but refused to provide details. US ambassador to the UN Thomas Pickering discussed the case in private talks with Nicaraguan officials during a short visit to Nicaragua last month. (Basic data from AP, 08/13/90)

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