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## **Over 320,000 Nicaraguans To Be Repatriated In Next Six Months**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Aug. 28, Roberto Ferrey, administrative director of the Repatriation Institute, over 320,000 Nicaraguans residing in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras will be repatriated within the next six months. Under a program coordinated by the Nicaraguan government, 3,000 to 4,000 were expected to return within the next few days. Ferrey said that the Nicaraguan government is obligated to provide as much assistance as possible to ensure that repatriates are integrated into society and lead productive lives. Most Nicaraguans living in other Central American countries are concentrated in neighboring Costa Rica and Honduras. About 41,000 of the 250,000 Nicaraguans residing in Costa Rica have official refugee status and receive assistance from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Another 10,000 are former contras and their family members. An estimated 70,000 will be repatriated from Honduras and 5,000 from Guatemala. (Basic data from Notimex, 08/29/90)

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