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Nicaragua: Former Contras & Sandinista Militia Join Efforts In Demanding Government-directed Land Redistribution

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Oct. 2, at a joint press conference in Managua, former contras and members of rural militias organized by the previous government warned of an outbreak of violence unless the government responds to their demands for land. Daniel Nunez, leader of a Sandinista campesino organization, spoke on behalf of the former militias. Pepe Matus, an ex-contra commander, said that if the needs of his counterparts continue to be ignored, they will occupy landholdings, followed by chaos and instability. He pointed out that many of the former contras had not been fully disarmed. In the past few months, the two groups formed the "Civic Resistance," an organization dedicated to redistribution of agricultural land. (Basic data from AFP, 10/02/90)

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