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Nicaragua: Sandinista Station's Transmission Equipment Destroyed

by Deborah Tyroler

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On the evening of Sept. 30, four unidentified persons wearing masks and armed with AK-47 rifles and Makarov pistols destroyed \$140,000 worth of transmission equipment at the La Primerissima radio station. The station is described as supportive of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). According to testimony by Victor Nicolas Sanchez, the only employee on hand at the time of the attack, the four said they were "inspectors from the Interior Ministry." Sanchez said they set fire to the station's two transmitters after dousing the equipment with gasoline. On Oct. 1, station director William Grigsby said, "This is a provocation aimed at destroying the popular movement. I believe we should respond with maturity...The attack was against all of us, but it would be counterproductive for us to respond with violence, because at this time it would not be reasonable. We must work to preserve calm." Grigsby added, "It is evident that [the sabotage] was not a random event. The attack occurred on the eve of a popular mobilization in defense of the people's interests." (Basic data from Notimex, 10/01/90)

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