

10-3-1990

Former Nicaraguan Interior Minister On Errors Of Sandinista Rule

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen>

Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Former Nicaraguan Interior Minister On Errors Of Sandinista Rule." (1990). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/4498>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

Former Nicaraguan Interior Minister On Errors Of Sandinista Rule

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, October 3, 1990

In an interview published Oct. 3 by The Independent (London), Tomas Borge, former interior minister under the previous government, said the Sandinista regime became arrogant during its 10 years in power. The FSLN leader was interviewed in Blackpool, where he had been invited to observe the Labor Party's national congress. Regarding the February 1990 elections, Borge stated that the FSLN "was a victim of triumphalism," having lost contact with its popular base. According to Borge, the party's internal functions became bureaucratic and consistently less democratic. Among other problems cited by Borge, young people were forcibly recruited to fight against the contras. "We didn't try to convince them, we used force. To avoid military service, thousands of youths fled the country." The FSLN's greatest economic errors, said Borge, were the government's "excessive role" in the economy, and the displacement of rural communities. The displacements, he said, led to food rationing and abuses by soldiers in war zones. Next, Borge asserted that the US government bears the lion's share of responsibility for what happened because of the "terrible war" imposed on Nicaragua. Despite all of its mistakes, said Borge, the FSLN nonetheless managed to obtain 40% of the vote in the general elections. The considerable influence exercised by the party in Nicaragua, according to Borge, is used to "avoid eruption of the volcano." He added, "We are not pyromaniacs, but we are also not firemen." (Basic data from AFP, 10/03/90)

-- End --