

10-5-1990

Nicaragua: Armed Former Contras Occupy Northern Village

Deborah Tyroler

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

Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Nicaragua: Armed Former Contras Occupy Northern Village." (1990). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/4510>

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.

Nicaragua: Armed Former Contras Occupy Northern Village

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, October 5, 1990

On the evening of Oct. 1, a group of armed former contras occupied the village of Waslala in northern Nicaragua. Media sources linked to the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) reported on Oct. 3 that in a shootout with police, eight contras and two policemen were killed. In addition, the attackers abducted army Maj. Mauro Ortega and two policemen. Accompanied by former foreign minister and member of the Maryknoll order, Miguel d'Escoto, several Catholic clergypersons who witnessed the incident spoke at a press conference in Managua on Wednesday. The Rev. Enrique Blandon, parish priest in Waslala, told reporters that about 200 former contras carrying weapons took over the community's major buildings late Monday afternoon. The contras were led by "Dimas," "Aguila," "Johnny," and "Morena," he said. According to Blandon, Catholic priests and nuns in Waslala "were forced by the contras, with the support of government delegates, to leave the vicinity" within 30 minutes. Four of their number, he said, could not abandon the locale "because they were wounded." Next, Blandon said the former contras "shouted that they want the land given by the Sandinistas to campesinos in the area, since after they disarmed, they have received no support to survive." D'Escoto condemned the government for failing to evict the former contras from Waslala public buildings and church property. The Interior Ministry said that a commission had been created to investigate the incident. The commission is comprised of delegates from the Organization of American States and the United Nations (ONUCA), representatives of Managua Archbishop Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and former contra commander "Ruben." The ministry reported that four former contras were killed, and another nine wounded. In addition, one soldier was wounded. Another ministry source cited by AP said that on Oct. 3, about 100 former contras surrounded La Dalia, also located in northern Nicaragua. In recent months former contras have launched several land occupations and intimidation campaigns, usually against agricultural cooperatives established during Sandinista rule. (Basic data from AFP, Notimex, 10/03/90; AP, 10/04/90)

-- End --