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Nicaragua: Former Contras Put In Charge Of Police In Rio Blanco, Matagalpa Department

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On Oct. 26, Interior Ministry officials told reporters that the government put former contras in charge of police in Rio Blanco, Matagalpa department. (See CAU 10/26/90 for coverage of contra occupation and related developments.) Ministry envoy Jaime Cuadra ordered 20 Sandinista police officers to withdraw to the local army battalion, and turn the police station over to the former contras. Cuadra also put former contras in charge of the towns of Mulukuku, Waslala and the surrounding hamlets, encompassing an area inhabited by about 20,000 people. Cuadra's home in Matagalpa was bombed earlier in October, a few days after he returned from putting down other contra disturbances in the northern towns of Quilali and Waslala. (Basic data from AP, 10/26/90)

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