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## **Nicaragua: International Verification & Support Commission (ciav) Denies Claims Of Poor Administration**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

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In statements to reporters in Managua on Nov. 14, Santiago Murray, representative of the International Verification and Support Commission (CIAV) in Nicaragua, denied claims that the CIAV was guilty of poor administration of US funds earmarked for the subsistence and resettlement of demobilized contras. Murray was responding to remarks made by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo made on Nov. 13. Lacayo said that in choosing the CIAV as aid administrator, the US Congress had made a mistake. He asserted that benefits received by the demobilized fighters were far from satisfactory, both from the point of view of the government and the former contras themselves. Murray said delays in disbursing the remaining \$30 million in US aid for contra resettlement had caused serious problems. Since funds for the CIAV's mission were exhausted a month ago, he said, the Commission has been operating in the red. According to Murray, the CIAV is currently providing food aid and other essentials to about 100,000 people, including former contras, repatriates and family members. The efficacy of the CIAV's efforts, he said, has been negatively affected in recent months by a series of strikes in Nicaragua and by delays in resettlement of demobilized fighters in "development poles" as defined in a May agreement between the government and former contra leaders. (Basic data from AFP, 11/14/90)

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