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## **Eden Pastora Denies Involvement In Shipping Weapons Previously Owned By Nicaraguan Contras To Panama**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Nov. 26, former Nicaraguan contra leader Eden Pastora appeared on San Jose's television channel 7 to deny any involvement in arms shipments to Panama. The celebrated "Commander Zero" said reports appearing in the Panamanian media to this effect were the "work of the sensationalist press, and the [US] Central Intelligence Agency." Articles published Nov. 23 in two Panamanian newspapers claimed Pastora had engineered the illegal entry from Costa Rica into Panama of 100 Soviet-made rifles. The rifles were reportedly part of the weaponry the Nicaraguan contras failed to surrender to special UN forces earlier this year. (Basic data from Notimex, 11/26/90)

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