

Nicaragua: Former Sandinista Soldiers Create Armed Groups To Counter "recontras"

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In statements published by daily newspaper Barricada on Sept. 3, Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) leader Luis Carrion denied that the party supports former Sandinista soldiers who have taken up arms to fight the "recontras." Groups of former Sandinista soldiers, known as "recompas," include Danto 91, based in the Las Segovias mountains, Nueva Segovia department; the Revolutionary Action Movement (MAR), in the Matagalpa-Jinotega area; the Property Self-Defense Group; and, the Pedro Altamirano Column in Region II (Leon- Chinandega area). Carrion, who serves as FSLN representative to the Security Commission to disarm civilians, said, "If we do not act immediately and with intelligence, the violent acts restricted thus far to the old war zones will spread throughout the entire country." According to Carrion, the first step toward effective disarmament of recontras and recompas is "to demonstrate that there are level-headed authorities in control of the situation." [Basic data from 08/24-30/91 report by the Central American Historical Institute (Georgetown University, Washington, DC); AFP, 09/03/91]

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