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Nicaragua: Seven Recontra Commanders Agree To Participate In National Disarmament Program

by Deborah Tyroler

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At an Oct. 18 press briefing, Interior Minister Carlos Hurtado told reporters that seven recontra commanders had agreed to participate in the government's civilian disarmament campaign. Hurtado said recontra combatants would make up 40% of a 150-person national disarmament brigade. The recontras are committed to disarming themselves after the national campaign is complete. Next, Hurtado said the government accepted recontra demands to close down several military bases in northern Nicaragua. The recontras also promised to return 34 rifles confiscated Oct. 4 from soldiers in El Ayote. No dates were mentioned. The agreements resulted from a meeting in San Marcos, Jinotega department, between Hurtado and recontra leaders "Dimas," "Tigrillo," "Bigote de Oro," "Bolivar," "Campeon," "Charrito," and "Cinco Pinos." Santiago Murray, head of the Organization of American States (OAS)-sponsored Support and Verification Commission (CIAV), and Bishop Pedro Lisimaco Chavez, representative of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, also attended. Jose Angel Moran ("Indomable") did not participate in the negotiations. Hurtado said another meeting with recontra leaders would take place within the next 10 days.

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