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Deborah Tyroler

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## **Nicaraguan: Army Troop Strength To Be Further Reduced**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Oct. 23, Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus told reporters that in December the number of soldiers would be reduced to 20,000. In 18 months, he said, the Nicaraguan army's status has changed from the largest to the smallest in Central America. In 1989, the Nicaraguan military was comprised of 96,880 persons, including soldiers, reserves and militia members. In April 1990, troop strength was reduced to 28,729. The Guatemalan and Salvadoran armies number 30,000 each, and the Honduran army, 27,000. Civilian police force personnel in Costa Rica and Panama total 15,000 each. Dreyfus's remarks coincided with the receipt of a US\$1 million donation from Norway earmarked for a troop strength reduction program which began in July. [Basic data from ACAN-EFE, AFP, 10/23/91; Barricada (Nicaragua), 10/25/91]

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