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Nicaragua: Recontra Group Disarms & Joins Police Force

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Oct. 30, 69 recontras formally disarmed during a ceremony in Huapi, 25 km. north of Rama, Zelaya department. Interior Minister Carlos Hurtado was present. The event marked the first demobilization since recontra groups first appeared in April this year. The recontra group was led by "Daniel," "Heraldo Delgado," and "Juan Pablo." Among the 67 weapons turned over to government officials were AK-47 and M-16 machineguns, RPG-7 rocket launchers, and an M-79 grenade launcher. The same recontra group had recently attacked the police post in the small Atlantic coast town of El Tortuguero, where they stole rifles and ammunition. The stolen weapons were also turned over to Hurtado during the disarmament ceremony in Huapi. Officials refused to provide details on terms of the agreement which led to the recontras' disarmament. During the ceremony, Hurtado said "Daniel" and "Heraldo Delgado" will serve as police chief and Interior Ministry delegate, respectively, in Huapi, while another five former recontras are to join the police force in Rama. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, AFP, 10/30/91)

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