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Nicaragua: Former Contra Leaders Seek Legal Status For Political Party

by Deborah Tyrold
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On Nov. 7, leaders from the recently formed Nicaraguan Resistance Party (PRN) submitted a formal request for legal status to the governmental National Political Parties Council (CNPP). According to PRN secretary general Luis Fley ("Johnson"), the party has at least 100,000 supporters in the countryside. Fley said the PRN supports disarmament of all civilians, including recontras and recompas. In addition, the party supports abolition of the army as one of several steps necessary to completely demilitarize Nicaraguan society. PRN leader Hector Sanchez denied that the party is receiving foreign funding. In addition to Fley and Sanchez, members of the provisional PRN directorate are Luis Angel Lopez, Jose Guerrero, Joel Valdez, Roger German, Jose Rivas and Fernando Avellan. Former contra leaders Israel Galeano ("Franklin") and Oscar Sovalbarro ("Ruben"), both of whom hold government posts, refused invitations to join the PRN directorate. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, ACAN-EFE, 11/07/91)

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