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Nicaragua: Chronology Of Political Violence & Related Events, February 4 - 10
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Feb. 4: Military spokespersons reported one recontra and one recompa killed and four other unidentified combatants wounded during a clash between recontras and recompas near Puerto Viejo, Matagalpa department. Feb. 5: Unidentified assailants burned a bus near Matiguas, Matagalpa. No report on casualties was available. Next, another unidentified group set up a roadblock near Matiguas, forcing five public transport vehicles to stop. One of the vehicles rolled over when the driver attempted to break through the roadblock. Feb. 7: An Interior Ministry spokesperson reported that 346 recontras and 70 recompas surrendered their weapons during a disarmament ceremony held at Tomatoya, Jinotega department. Recontras led by commanders "Peligro," "Xavier," "Punalito," "Saltamontes," and "Terror" agreed to disarm Feb. 10 after negotiations with deputy interior minister Alfredo Mendieta. Interior Minister Carlos Hurtado reported that 2,134 recontras and recompas have disarmed since Jan. 21. Hurtado added that insurgents who have not demobilized by Feb. 15 "will be treated as common criminals." According to Hurtado, there are approximately seven "armed irregular groups" remaining in Nicaragua. Feb. 9: Citing reports in local newspapers, ACAN-EFE said that peace talks with recontra commander "Dimas" had been temporarily suspended following the recontra leader's insistence that the government provide US$2 million to his 400-member rebel unit for demobilization and disarmament. Recontras led by commanders "Yucapuca" and "Principe" told reporters that they would no longer adhere to the terms of a Feb. 2 disarmament accord. The two commanders called for new negotiations with the government. Feb. 10: According to local press reports, recontra chief Jose Angel Moran ("Indomable") and 400 other recontras and recompas surrendered weapons at Jinotega. Moran told reporters that he would seek political asylum in the US, due to the absence of security guarantees in Nicaragua. Interior Minister Hurtado told reporters that Moran's fears regarding his physical safety in Nicaragua were "absurd." Hurtado asserted that disarmament procedures are being carried out to guarantee "security for all Nicaraguans." (Basic data from Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias-Spanish news service EFE, 02/05/92, 02/07/92, 02/09/92, 02/10/92; Agence France-Presse, 02/07/92, 02/10/92, 02/12/92)

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