

RNR 142

AM-CASTRO-ORTEGA

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WK politics

### CUBA BACKS CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACE PLAN

HAVANA, AUG 13, REUTER - CUBA TODAY ENDORSED A CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACE PLAN APPROVED IN GUATEMALA CITY LAST WEEK AND SAID NICARAGUAN PRESIDENT DANIEL ORTEGA HAD LEFT THE ISLAND AFTER ALL-NIGHT TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO.

A JOINT COMMUNIQUE SAID ORTEGA ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY AND LEFT CUBA EARLY TODAY FOLLOWING A "PROLONGED MEETING" WITH CASTRO.

IT DESCRIBED THE PEACE PROPOSAL ADOPTED IN GUATEMALA CITY AS A "HIGHLY POSITIVE AND A NEW EVENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE REGION."

IT SAID DURING THE TALKS WITH ORTEGA, "CUBA EXPRESSED TO NICARAGUA ITS FULL SUPPORT FOR THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE REGION AND FOR THE AGREEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE PRESIDENTS OF THE FIVE CENTRAL AMERICAN NATIONS."

IT ADDED THAT CASTRO AND ORTEGA HAD "ARRIVED AT THE CONCLUSION THAT AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE WOULD BE A REGIONAL AGREEMENT FOR AN END TO FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION."

"BOTH GOVERNMENTS ARE READY TO WORK IN THAT DIRECTION," IT SAID.

THE PACT INTENDED TO END REGIONAL CONFLICTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA, MOST NOTABLY THE GUERRILLA WAR IN NICARAGUA, WAS SIGNED LAST WEEK BY THE PRESIDENTS OF NICARAGUA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS, COSTA RICA AND GUATEMALA AND WAS FORMULATED BY COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT OSCAR ARIAS.

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