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# Disaffected Nicaraguan contra leader expected to withdraw from the fighting

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SAN JOSE, Costa Rica - Eden Pastora, a leader of Nicaraguan rebels who was recently stripped of a key command, will lay down his arms tomorrow to Costa Rican authorities along with as many as 450 of his fighters, a rebel spokesman said yesterday.

Pastora's reported withdrawal came the same day that the three leaders of the United Nicaraguan Opposition, the main rebel group, met in Miami in an effort to regroup in their fight against the leftist Nicaraguan government.

The three, Arturo Cruz, Adolfo Calero and Alfonso Robelo, got a show of support from the Reagan

administration when Philip Habib, special envoy to Central America, visited their unity talks.

In San Jose, President Oscar Arias Sanchez said he "would consider" granting asylum to Pastora, a disaffected Sandinista who led his fighters from the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, or ARDE, in attacks across Nicaragua's southern border with Costa Rica.

Pastora's decision to give up the fight came days after he was excluded from a major contra alliance encouraged by the United States.

The pact, announced Saturday, joined ARDE with the largest rebel group, the Nicaraguan

Democratic Force, which is known by its Spanish initials, FDN, in Honduras.

Pastora has consistently opposed this alliance despite pressure from the CIA, which has provided advisers to the rebels. The agreement replaced Pastora with another commander. P

An ARDE spokesman said Pastora and up to 450 members will meet with reporters in the border region of Los Chiles moments before surrendering their arms to Costa Rican authorities.

"We are not going to continue using Nicaraguan blood to endorse the war games of the United States," the spokesman said.