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# Nicaragua Rebel, in U.S., Warns Against Invasion

By JAMES LeMOYNE

A top Nicaraguan rebel leader appealed to Americans yesterday to aid his forces while warning the Reagan Administration against direct military intervention in Nicaragua.

In an interview in Manhattan at the start of a two-week fund-raising tour of the United States, Edén Pastora Gómez, head of the Nicaraguan Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, said: "Military intervention in Nicaragua would be the biggest mistake that Reagan could make. In Grenada you got in and out quickly. In Nicaragua you could get in, but getting out would be another matter."

"We don't need U.S. intervention in Nicaragua," Mr. Pastora added, "There are enough Nicaraguans willing to fight already."

He said his forces needed only two things, "guns and boots."

## Rebels Confer With Cubans

In Managua, a Nicaraguan official said foreign troops might be sent to aid anti-Government rebels, who he said were falling in their campaign to seize a part of Nicaraguan territory. The official, Victor Tirado López, a member of the nine-man Sandinista National Directorate, said the Reagan Administration was trying to reactivate the Central American Defense Council in order to use the organization's forces against Nicaragua. [Page A7.]

Mr. Pastora, who said he had left his troops in the jungles of Nicaragua only two days ago, confirmed that aides had recently held talks with Cuban officials on the political situation in Nicaragua. But he said the talks had ended because the Cubans "only wanted to use them to sow distrust among democratic sectors" supporting his forces.

Other senior officials of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance offered another version of the Cuban contacts. They said the talks were difficult and exploratory, but were an important and continuing element in the alliance's efforts to affect the course of the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua.

## Further Contacts Predicted

The officials said Cuba initiated the talks in June because it was worried that Nicaragua was becoming dangerously polarized and believed the risk of a United States invasion was growing.

The officials predicted further con-

tacts despite what they said was distrust on both sides and protests to Cuba by Nicaraguan leaders. "Our project is a historic compromise," one said. "We believe the Cubans recognize the need for reconciliation in Nicaragua."

Under the nom de guerre Commander Zero, Mr. Pastora was a hero of the Sandinista campaign against the Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza Debayle, who was overthrown in 1979. But angered by the Sandinistas' increasingly Marxist course, he went into exile in 1981, accusing his former comrades in arms of betraying the revolution. For the last six months his Costa Rica-based alliance has waged a sporadic guerrilla campaign against Sandinista units in the isolated southeastern jungles of Nicaragua.

The Reagan Administration supports a second guerrilla group, the Honduras-based Nicaraguan Democratic Force, which is fighting in the north of the country. Mr. Pastora has refused to ally his forces with this group, which he says has ties to former officials of the Somoza regime and its national guard.

Accompanying Mr. Pastora were Alfonso Robelo Callejas, co-leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, and several other rebel officials. Mr. Robelo said he had come along on the trip to dismiss rumors that the two had serious disagreements. Mr. Pastora reportedly quit the alliance two weeks ago because of policy disagreements with Mr. Robelo, but both men insisted that the argument had been temporary and that their partnership remained firm.

The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance is a union of Mr. Pastora's Sandino Revolutionary Front and Mr. Robelo's Nicaraguan Democratic Movement. Mr. Pastora said the al-

liance has 4,000 armed guerrillas and 2,000 other men waiting for weapons. But Western diplomatic sources in Costa Rica estimate that the group has 3,000 guerrillas, not all of whom are combat-ready.

The guerrilla leader said he was on his first "legal" visit to the United States. He noted that during the campaign against the Somoza regime he had made two clandestine trips to smuggle arms for the Sandinistas.

He said that on his two-week tour he intends to meet with journalists, politicians and Nicaraguan exiles in New York, Washington, San Francisco and Miami.

Expressing concern with American policy, Mr. Pastora said the Reagan Administration was "Salvadorizing" Nicaragua by encouraging random violence and by backing the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, which he said has "military successes but no political backing."

Mr. Pastora said he had no plans to meet with United States officials, but was willing to do so. As evidence of increased United States interest in his movement, he cited his visa to enter the country.

Although Western diplomatic officials in Costa Rica have said that the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance has received some money and arms from the Central Intelligence Agency, Mr. Pastora would say only that he may have received C.I.A. support indirectly. But he added that he would "take money from anyone, so long as there are no conditions attached." He said his funds are so low that he can spend only \$100 equipping each of his guerrilla fighters.

"It would be easy to get money if I became a right-winger or if I was a left-winger," Mr. Pastora said. "It's harder when you are in the center without a preconceived ideology."

At a news conference held to publicize his cause, Mr. Pastora said he did not know whether the C.I.A. supplied the plane that his forces used in an attack on the airport in the Nicaraguan capital of Managua on Sept. 8. He said his organization had bought two planes, one from a surplus dealer in Miami and the other "at a very good price from a company in Panama."

Previous reports had said that the plane used in the attack had been traced to a C.I.A.-affiliated company.