

COSTA RICAN CHIEF WARNS NICARAGUA ON PRESS FREEDOM

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Arias, Rebutting Ortega, Says
Pact Requires Reopening
of Opposition Papers

By STEPHEN KINZER

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SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, Aug. 11 — President Oscar Arias Sánchez of Costa Rica, whose Central American peace proposal was signed by regional leaders last week, has declared that the plan cannot succeed unless Nicaragua allows opposition press outlets to reopen.

"The language of the agreement is very explicit and not open to interpretation on this point," Mr. Arias said in an interview Monday. "Fortunately Spanish is not an ambiguous language."

After the signing of the plan Friday in Guatemala, President Daniel Ortega Saavedra of Nicaragua said the reopening of silenced opposition voices, including the newspaper La Prensa and the Roman Catholic radio station, was "an option of ours."

No Option, Arias Says

In the interview, Mr. Arias said that by Nov. 7, the deadline set by the accord, Nicaragua must lift the state of emergency that has been in force for five years and "place all communications media at the service of the entire Nicaraguan people." More than 20 radio news programs have been halted since the Sandinista Government came to power in Nicaragua eight years ago, and both television stations are controlled by the Government.

Also by Nov. 7, under the accord, all outside aid to Central American guerrilla forces must cease. Although no countries outside the region signed the accord, Mr. Arias said the two countries that have most actively supported rebel groups in the region, Cuba and the United States, were obliged to abide by it.

"For many years, it has been alleged that we Central Americans are unable to resolve our own problems," Mr. Arias said. "Now we have shown that we have the capacity to be flexible and to make concessions in order to reach a consensus. Both the United States and Cuba have a moral obligation to sup-

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