

Shultz: Nicaragua 'rotten apple'

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Secretary of State George Shultz on Sunday labeled Nicaragua a "rotten apple in the barrel" of emerging Central American democracies.

Describing the Central American mission he will embark upon late this month, Shultz said: "I'm going to carry the U.S. message of what our objectives are, and our program and ideas for getting there."

On NBC's *Meet the Press*, he said he thought the Reagan ad-

ministration's doctrine of pushing democracy in the region had been mostly successful.

But when asked to name his No. 1 foreign policy disappointment, Shultz pointed to the continuing rule of Nicaragua by the Marxist Sandinista government.

"In spite of the fact that we've made great strides there [in Central America] . . . the fact is we still have this bad, rotten apple in the barrel in the form of Nicaragua," he said.