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# Shultz Pursuing C.A. Peace

By BETH HAWKINS

WHILE Costa Rican policymakers this week speculated on the reasons for U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' upcoming tour of Central America, sources here said that U.S. lawmakers are struggling to put stalled ceasefire talks in Nicaragua back on track.

Days after the most recent round of peace talks between the anti-Sandinista rebels and the Nicaraguan government broke down in a crossfire of bitter accusations, U.S. officials announced that Shultz will visit Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras next week to discuss prospects for area peace. The U.S. Secretary is due to arrive here July 1, and will be here for a few hours.

Shultz will be the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit Costa Rica since Vice-President George Bush attended President Oscar Arias' Inauguration in May, 1986. The chief U.S. diplomat's two-day fact-finding tour was announced last weekend, after U.S. strategic arms negotiator and number-three man in the State Department, Max Kampelman, called on a pleased Arias.

ALTHOUGH Shultz' public statements about his upcoming whirlwind tour have concentrated on complaints about Nicaragua's Sandinista government, the Secretary of State reportedly told U.S. reporters last weekend that a principal objective of the visit is to strengthen the area peace process begun by Arias

over a year ago.

Local sources have speculated that in the face of upcoming U.S. presidential elections and given the embarrassing failure of Reagan Administration attempts to oust Panama strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, U.S. diplomats are ready to throw their support behind the Central America and Panama mediation efforts being pushed by Latin American heads of state.

(U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliott Abrams recently ordered Reagan Administration envoys in the hemisphere to urge Latin allies to help in the growing U.S.-Panama crisis.)

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