

Ortega proposes new round of talks with contra leaders

By SAM DILLON
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MANAGUA, Nicaragua — President Daniel Ortega Sunday invited contra leaders to return to Managua next week to renew ruptured peace talks.

But Aristides Sanchez, a rebel negotiator, said the insurgents would refuse Ortega's call. Sanchez suggested in a phone interview that new talks might eventually be held in Costa Rica, but only after the U.S. government matches recent Soviet assistance to the Sandinistas with new U.S. aid administered by the CIA.

The two men's statements suggested that conditions for new talks have improved little since the last negotiating session collapsed in angry confrontation here June 9.

In a Managua press conference, President Ortega said his brother Humberto, the defense minister, who has headed the Sandinista delegation in three months of negotiations, extended the call for new talks in a letter Sunday to Alfredo Cesar, the top rebel negotiator during recent sessions.

Ortega's letter proposed that the talks begin June 26 and conclude June 29. He proposed that the agenda include a discussion of an extension of the government's unilateral truce, which is to expire June 30.

Ortega endorsed recent calls by Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo for a new summit of Central American presidents in August to review progress toward compliance with the regional peace plan the five leaders signed last Aug. 7.

Ortega criticized rebel suggestions that Costa Rican president Oscar Arias mediate the Nicaraguan talks, portraying the idea as an insult to the Organization of American

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States' secretary general and Managua's Roman Catholic cardinal, who have acted as witnesses to the negotiations.

"For President Arias to step in and occupy their place would be a blow to the work they have been doing," Ortega said.

Ortega said he had not talked with Arias recently.

Sanchez, one of the Nicaraguan Resistance's five civilian directors, participated last week with other rebel negotiators in three days of Washington talks with administration and congressional leaders.

Speaking by phone from Miami Sunday, he said he had sensed a "favorable climate" for new U.S. aid to the rebels "because U.S. leaders recognize that the resistance has been negotiating at a disadvantage while the [Nicaraguan] government has been receiving great quantities of aid from the Soviet Union."

Sanchez said the insurgents told U.S. leaders they would reopen negotiations only after getting U.S. commitments for new aid to rebel troops, to be administered by the CIA, with no involvement by the Sandinista government in its deliv-