

# Nicaragua Agrees to Host Russian 'Police Academy,' Fueling Espionage Fears

Nicaragua's communist regime authorized the establishment of a Russian-made "Instruction Center" for the "reengineering" of the Nicaraguan police, authorities confirmed last week.

Local media and experts have denounced the center as a possible "cover-up" for a prospective Russian spy agency in the Central American nation.

The Nicaraguan National Assembly approved the construction of the training center on Thursday as part of an agreement between Nicaragua and Russia for the "retraining and professional improvement" of Nicaragua's police. The deal followed Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolái Pátrushev's visit to Managua in February, where he met with dictator Daniel Ortega.

Nicaraguan newspaper *La Prensa* reported on Monday that the center will conduct its activities under the direction of Russian personnel, who will have the same immunity and privileges granted to foreign diplomats accredited in the country and will have "no obligation to account to the Nicaraguan authorities for their actions in the country."

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