

Raaz, Josh

Eden Pastora was born January 22, 1937 in Ciudad Dario, Matagalpa. A member of a strongly anti-Somoza Conservative Party, he blamed the government for the death of his father in the 1940s over land disputes. In 1959 Eden left medical school at the University of Guadalajara to help found the Sandino Revolutionary Front. He was very active in the Conservative Party presidential campaign of 1966-67, involved in a shootout with the National Guard, and joined the Frente Sandinista de Liberacion Nacional in 1967 to wage war against the government in the Pancasan guerrilla campaign. Quit the Frente Sandinista de Liberacion Nacional (FLSN) in 1972 over ideological differences and moved to Costa Rica. Rejoined the FLSN in 1977 as a member of the Insurrectionist faction and led the Southern Military Front's February 1978 attack on Rivas. Was later dubbed "Comandante Zero," in the August 1978 attack of the National Palace in Managua. Gained national popularity for the release of 59 political prisoners and forced the National Guard to engage the Southern Front of the FLSN, allowing other FLSN troops to concentrate their efforts on various other national targets. With the victory of the Sandinistas, Pastora became Vice Minister of Interior, then Vice Minister of Defense. He, however, left the government in 1981 and traveled to Costa Rica, Panama, and Cuba. 1982 announced his opposition of the Sandinista government and joined the Alianza Revolucionaria Democratica (ARDE) to combat the Sandinista government in the South. Spread message of justice, human rights, and connection with Indians. Pastora was fiercely independent of rest of group and followed own vision of victory and diplomacy. Was hoping to have Sandinista government become more pragmatic and recall him to Managua to save the government. To return as a national hero. The other Contra commanders discovered his plan and he lost support from the United States and other Contra leaders. Is now living in Costa Rica running a fishing cooperative. From what I have read about Eden Pastora, I believe that his opinion on the Autonomy Law would be more of an excuse to spread his own agendas of gaining power. Eden Pastora: "The Autonomy Law for our struggling brothers on the Atlantic front of this glorious revolution gives indication that the Sandinista government is ready to face the conclusion that our legitimate and necessary revolution has allowed the noble warriors of this region a chance at liberty. But the struggle is far from over. We must establish a government that is for all people, regardless of ethnicity, a government that will bring the Atlantic region back into the fold of Nicaragua. Our struggle must continue in order to secure justice and human rights for all of our fellow citizens. Even now the other comandantes of ARDE struggle to reach justice here in the South. We must continue that struggle against the Sandinistas until they too are ready to address our concerns. My brothers and sisters of the revolution do not let this proposal stop our righteous struggle against this totalitarian government. The time has come when victory is nearly at hand. The forces of liberty support and aid our efforts to bring order and freedom back to the lands of Nicaragua. I ask that you proud warriors of the Miskitu continue to struggle on the Atlantic front, so that we your brothers in the South are not forced to live under the shadow of oppression and tyranny. Let us continue to battle together so that our children and grandchildren will be able to live side-by-side and experience harmony and liberty. This proposal is being used to drive us apart when we are at the moment of salvation. Please my fellow loving freedom fighters, do not abandon the struggle now. Continue to fight for your liberty, lands, and family. Once the government sees our resolve to bring about the renewal of government for the people, they will fall before the mighty arm of liberty, and we will once again be a land of freedom. The Popular Sandinista Revolution is attempting to divide us. Do not listen to their lies. This autonomy promised to our Atlantic brothers is just another of their pledges to give the government back to the people and then rip it away when they are not looking. The ARDE and myself will continue to fight the Sandinistas until Nicaragua is free for all people, not just the Atlantic. Continue the struggle. Continue the revolution. Never lose sight of what we are fighting for. Liberty, justice, freedom. We will gladly give our lives in pursuit of these goals and the dictatorship that we find ourselves combating will crumble to our forces of liberty." I believe that Pastora would have used this meeting as an opportunity to gain international support, as well as domestic, and continue to gain popularity and forces underneath him. It also secured his survival because at the time various factions were gunning for his removal in the South. This was an opportunity to save his

life just as much as it was an opportunity to continue to try and gain power. Pastora would have used it as much as he could have. Bibliography Dennis, Philip A. "The Miskito-Sandinista Conflict in Nicaragua in the 1980s." *Latin American Research Review* 28, no.3 (1993): 214-234. Pardo-Maurer, R. *The Contras, 1980-1989*. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1990. United States, Dept. of State, and Office of Public Affairs, *Nicaraguan Biographies: A Resource Book*. Rev. ed. Special Report: Special Report (United States. Dept. of State. Bureau of Public Affairs), no. 174. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept of State, Bureau of Public Affairs, 1988.