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Vet Trial Comes Home

The legal battle over whether Santa Cruz Post 5888 has the right to remain in the Veterans of Foreign Wars despite taking a public stand against intervention in Central America has been returned to Santa Cruz Superior Court.

Post 5888 has been threatened with ejection from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (which has nationally supported Reagan Administration policy in Central America) since last December when a member delivered a copy of the post's anti-intervention resolution to Nicaragua President

Daniel Ortega.

The dispute has been in court for more than a month and a federal judge in San Francisco turned down the national organization's appeal to have the case heard in federal — rather than state — court. As a result of Tuesday's decision, the trial will now be held locally next month.

Although Post 5888 continues in the VFW minority on the Central American War issue, more than 400 veterans from around the country have written letters of support, the post's membership has more than tripled since the anti-intervention stand became public, and other posts in California. Illionis and Florida have endorsed 5888's stand.