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Salvadoran Rebel Delegates Will Not Attend National Conference On Alternative Political Solutions To Crisis

by Deborah Tyroler

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On the evening of Feb. 27 the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) announced rebel delegates would be unable to attend a peace forum to be held at the National University. According to the broadcast by RADIO VENCEREMOS, the government of President Jose Napoleon Duarte and the military refused to guarantee the delegates' safety. The conference is titled, "Alternative Political Proposals in the Face of the Present Crisis." VENCEREMOS said government officials and army chiefs had publicly threatened to arrest rebel leaders upon entering the country. Meanwhile, the FMLN-FDR statement asserted that rebel perspectives on resolving the national conflict will be "channeled" to the meeting. Deputy Hugo Carrillo told reporters he disagreed with the military's refusal to permit the rebels entry into the country. Carrillo, general secretary of the National Conciliation Party, said if FMLN-FDR representatives come to state their views peacefully, it would be a positive development for the nation. He described the government's position as contradictory, pointing out that the Palma and Ayagualo peace talks set a precedent in that rebel leaders were accorded safe passage in El Salvador.

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