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98 Salvadoran Rebel Wounded Arrive In Cuba

by Deborah Tyroler

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On June 29, 98 former fighters with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) arrived in Havana, Cuba, for medical treatment. The delivery of severely wounded or crippled rebels for medical care in Cuba and other countries is part of an agreement between the FMLN and the Salvadoran government under President Jose Napoleon Duarte initiated in 1984. The wounded were received at the Jose Marti International Airport by Farid Handal, representative of the FMLN and the FDR (Revolutionary Democratic Front); Manuel Pineiro, head of the Americas Department of the Cuban Communist Party's Central Committee; and several former Salvadoran rebels who had previously received medical treatment under the same arrangement. In statements to reporters at the airport, Handal expressed gratitude on behalf of the FMLN-FDR to the Cuban and Mexican governments, the Salvadoran Catholic Church, and the International Red Cross. Sixteen of the 98 arriving in Havana were scheduled for treatment in Mexico. (Basic data from PRENSA LATINA, 06/29/87)

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