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El Salvador: Archbishop Calls On Presidents To Attend Summit

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Jan. 15 during a homily at the Cathedral in San Salvador, Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas urged Central American presidents to attend a summit as soon as possible in order to avoid debilitating the peace process. The summit, he said, must not take place "to fulfill a formality, but to advance the process that will culminate in a...lasting peace for this convulsed region." The summit, scheduled to take place on Jan. 15-16, was postponed at the request of Costa Rican President Oscar Arias who said participants needed more time to become informed of George Bush's Central American policy. Bush will be inaugurated on Jan. 20. Next, the archbishop criticized the release of former Capt. Alvaro Saravia, who was imprisoned by authorities in the US awaiting extradition to El Salvador. Saravia was accused of conspiracy in the 1980 assassination of San Salvador Archbishop Oscar Romero. Rivera y Damas said statements by Salvadoran judicial authorities to the effect that the evidence against Saravia was insufficient "do not convince the Salvadoran people." The archbishop also requested an end to the "dialogue of bombs," in reference to a wave of bombings in the previous week. Bombing incidents occurred in the city of San Miguel, and in a refugee camp located near the capital. Bombs were also installed in the University of El Salvador (UES) administrators and faculty. (Basic data from Notimex, 01/15/89)

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