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Note On Secret Meeting Between U.S. Congressperson & Salvadoran Rebel Commander Joaquin Villalobos

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Jan. 26 in Mexico City, an unnamed aide to Rep. Stephen J. Solarz (D-NY) told Notimex that Solarz had recently participated in a secret encounter with Commander Joaquin Villalobos of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). The meeting reportedly took place in November in Mexico City. According to the aide, Solarz and Villalobos discussed means toward finding a negotiated solution to El Salvador's civil war. Solarz is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. After apologizing for not having more information, the aide said he had no idea whether future meetings between the FMLN and other US congresspersons had been planned. Solarz was a strong critic of the regime of Ferdinand Marcos in the Phillipines, and has played an important role in official US critiques of the South African government.

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