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El Salvador: Archbishop Requests That Government Reconsider Rebel Offer

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Jan. 29, during a nationally broadcast homily at San Salvador's cathedral, Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas requested that President Jose Napoleon Duarte's government to reconsider its rejection of a recent peace proposal offered by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). (See CAU, 01/25/89 and 01/27/89 for accounts of the rebels' proposal.) On Jan. 25, Duarte dismissed the proposal. The archbishop has served as a mediator between the rebels and the government in three previous rounds of dialogue. "Many consider this a substantial change in the guerrilla position, and I do as well...," the archbishop said. "It is necessary to leave the door open and continue to search for peaceful roads to lead us to the end of the war." (Basic data from Washington Post, 01/30/89)

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