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Salvadoran Rebels Announce Suspension Of Attacks On U.S. Facilities, Personnel

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Feb. 1, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) announced that it would suspend attacks on US facilities and personnel in El Salvador, in response to what the rebels described as an initial favorable response by Washington to their recent proposal to participate in upcoming elections. The communique, released in Mexico, said the suspension was "urgent," and effective immediately. A rebel spokesperson called on radio broadcasters in San Salvador to air the statement. The FMLN's communique specified that its decision to halt attacks on US personnel did not include US military advisers stationed at Salvadoran military bases. The communique said, "With this gesture, we reaffirm our sympathy for the North American people among whom thousands of Salvadorans reside, and our aspiration that some day our country will achieve an honorable and independent relationship with the US." Although President Jose Napoleon Duarte rejected the rebel offer, the US State Department said that it was worthy of serious consideration. Several US congresspersons have stated that the guerrillas may have opened an important chapter in the process of ending El Salvador's nine-year civil war. (Basic data from AP, 02/01/89)

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