

2-8-1989

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Vice President Quayle On Need For Observance Of Human Rights In El Salvador

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, February 8, 1989

On Feb. 3, Vice President Dan Quayle spent seven hours in San Salvador, en route from Caracas, Venezuela, where he attended the inauguration ceremonies of President Carlos Andres Perez. Before meeting with armed forces commanders, Quayle said, "Democracy means human rights and decency you can't have one without the other. When I emerge there definitely will be no doubt in their minds about the seriousness of our commitment to human rights and justice." Quayle also told President Jose Napoleon Duarte that the US would support him if he agreed to postpone the presidential election as suggested by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). Duarte then announced that the Christian Democrat Party would agree to postpone the presidential election, provided that all other political parties were agreeable. The Catholic Church's Tutela Legal said that through the last week of November 1988, the army had killed 83 people, paramilitary "death squads" 51, and the guerrillas, 40. Another 45 persons were reported killed by land mines. Army killings, said Tutela Legal, were up 28% over the previous year, and death squad killings by 135%. The increase in killings attributed to the rebels is 43%, while deaths from mines are up 72%. The army has not disciplined a single commander. (Basic data from New York Times, 02/04/89)

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