

3-10-1989

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Tyroler, Deborah. "Salvadoran Rebels Call Off Talks Until After Elections; Calls On Supporters To Boycott Balloting." (1989).
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Salvadoran Rebels Call Off Talks Until After Elections; Calls On Supporters To Boycott Balloting

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Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, March 10, 1989

In a statement broadcast March 8 on Salvadoran radio, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) accused the Salvadoran government of "delay and deceit" in responding to their peace overture and said they would not meet with government officials until after the presidential election. The FMLN also urged supporters to boycott the March 19 election. The rebel statement noted the government took more than a month to respond to its Jan. 24 proposal and said that with the elections ten days off, time had run out. "In these conditions of so much delay and deceit...the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front declares that it maintains its offer of peace and will continue to struggle for it. But it considers that holding a meeting now with the government...would be to lend ourselves to further deceit of our people and of world opinion. "Only after the election, which will be fraudulent, could there be another attempt to negotiate peace among the FMLN, the government, the Legislative Assembly and the political parties...The FMLN calls on the masses to combatively repudiate this fraudulent election." The communique added that the FMLN hoped to continue discussions with Salvadoran political parties after the election "to search for new paths to peace." (Basic data from AP, 03/08/89; Xinhua, 03/09/89)

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