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## **Ecuadoran Rebel Group Decides To Disarm**

*by John Neagle*

*Category/Department: General*

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On March 7, the Ecuadoran government and the country's main rebel group, Alfaro Vive (AVC), announced that the guerrillas had decided to disarm. In return President Rodrigo Borja's government agreed to a national dialogue aimed at economic recovery and the search for social justice. At a press conference, AVC leader Marco Troya, AVC spokesperson Pedro Moncada, Interior Minister Andres Vallejo and Labor Minister Cesar Verduga, announced the accord. The rebel organization first appeared in January 1-1983. Six months later, guerrillas began to rob banks and attack local media organizations to disseminate proclamations. Their most audacious action was a March 1985 attack on a police station and the theft of 631 revolvers, 40 rifles and boxes of ammunition. Five months later the group worked with the Colombian M-19 rebel group to kidnap banker Nahim Isaias. Isaias died along with his kidnappers in a police attack. Most of the AVC's leaders died during the administration of former president Leon Febres Cordero. More than 100 AVC members were imprisoned. At its height, government officials said the rebel group numbered 1,000. [On the same day, in telephone messages to local media sources, former presidential candidate Abdala Bucaram called on "popular rebels" to overthrow Borja's government. According to Bucaram, Borja had bowed down to the pressures of the International Monetary Fund, and asserted that the president had become a "puppet of the North American regime." Following last year's elections, Bucaram set up residence in Panama.] (Basic data from AFP, 03/07/89; Miami Herald, 03/09/89)

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