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Salvadoran Chief Of Staff Says Military Policy Under Arena Government Will Remain Unchanged

by Deborah Tyroler
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In statements to the press on April 13, Salvadoran army chief Col. Rene Emilio Ponce said military policy under the government of ARENA president Alfredo Cristiani will remain unchanged. The "philosophy" of the military leadership, he said, is based on efficiency, professionalism, respect for human rights and strengthening the democratic process. Cristiani will assume power on June 1. In recent statements, retired Col. Sigifredo Ochoa, now an ARENA politician, said that the US-designed "low intensity conflict" approach employed by the government of President Jose Napoleon Duarte must change. Ponce asserted that the US decision to support the new government was "an opportunity to show that it aims to serve the people." (Basic data from Xinhua, 04/13/89)

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