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Salvadoran Rebels' Proposal To New Arena Government

by Deborah Tyroler

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[On May 29, the high command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) delivered a proposal to the Salvadoran government, aimed at reducing hostilities and opening another round of direct negotiations. The proposal was signed by Cmdrs. Francisco Jovel, Schafik Jorge Handal, Joaquin Villalobos, Eduardo Sancho and Salvador Sanchez Ceren. Excerpts from the proposal appear below.]

1. Dialogue with political parties Political opposition parties could promote a dialogue with the FMLN until direct negotiations with the government can be arranged. In meetings with the political parties, the FMLN would discuss a series of commitments suggested for both sides to the conflict described as conducive to creating an appropriate atmosphere for direct negotiations. For the FMLN, the commitments are as follows: (1) Suspension of attacks against political leaders of President Alfredo Cristiani's government; (2) Suspension of transport bans; (3) Suspension of attacks and harassment of government and military officials' family members; (4) Prohibition of the use of car bombs in urban areas; (5) Respect for US personnel and government facilities in El Salvador; and, (6) Suspending sabotage of the country's electricity grid, and places of business in cities. Commitments suggested by the FMLN for the ARENA government follow: (1) Prosecution of former major Roberto D'Aubuisson and all others implicated in the 1980 assassination of Msgr. Romero. As a result of such proceedings, D'Aubuisson could not perform any government functions. (2) Dismantlement of the death squads and a ban on the legal or covert formation of the so-called "patriotic defense committees"; (3) Immediate release of detained labor union leaders and other popular movement activists, and political prisoners; (4) Termination of assassinations, disappearances, abductions, military surveillance, attacks and occupations perpetrated against universities, popular organization offices, churches and civic groups of all kinds, and the cessation of all forms of repression against opposition parties; (5) Continuation of agrarian reform, including decree #207, and maintenance of nationalized status of banks and foreign trade as decreed by the government in 1980; (6) Unrestricted freedom of information for all national and foreign media, and termination of threats and intimidation against journalists; and, (7) Continuity of the commitment assumed by the previous government to evacuate wounded and crippled members of the FMLN; and, (8) Practice respect for the lives of family members of leaders of the popular movement, opposition parties and the FMLN. With the establishment of an appropriate atmosphere via meeting the above conditions, the FMLN would be willing to immediately open direct negotiations with the government aimed at achieving genuine democracy, social transformation and a lasting peace. At this juncture, the FMLN would present program proposals elaborated on April 6. The FMLN reiterates that any attempt to impose the same mechanisms adopted in the case of the Nicaraguan contras would significantly reduce the potential for achieving peace in El Salvador. The FMLN reasserts its position for organizing a cease-fire when negotiations are underway toward a global solution to the conflict. However, given the dynamic of the regional peace process, we would also be willing to coordinate a cease-fire in the event of an agreement and subsequent implementation under international supervision of a multilateral and simultaneous cutoff of military shipments from any source to all governments and other actors in the Central American conflict. (Basic data from 05/29/89 information bulletin by Radio Venceremos)

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