6-7-1989

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El Salvador: Democratic Convergence Calls On Government & Rebels To Stop "War Of Words" & Pursue End To War

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Category/Department: General
Published: Wednesday, June 7, 1989

At a June 5 press conference in San Salvador, Democratic Convergence leaders Guillermo Ungo, Reni Roldan and Ruben Zamora called on the Salvadoran government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) to cease their war of words, and concentrate instead on mechanisms aimed at ending the civil war via negotiated settlement. Roldan said, "We have seen in the verbal war immediate rejection to serious proposals [for dialogue] by both sides." He added that recent proposals by both the FMLN and the new government of President Alfredo Cristiani contained positive elements and the two sides should seek to integrate respective offers. According to the Democratic Convergence, the FMLN's proposal "contained promising elements" in terms of content, while the government offer included a procedural aspect worthy of consideration. Cristiani suggested the creation of a special dialogue commission that would establish contact with the rebels toward initiating a permanent dialogue outside El Salvador. After describing Cristiani's proposal as "incomplete," Ungo said the Convergence was interested in learning more about government intentions regarding content. He added that at present, Cristiani's offer appeared to an attempt at dialogue minus negotiation rather than a search for a negotiated solution to the conflict. Zamora emphasized the need for political party participation in the search for a negotiated solution, as agreed during a meeting between party and FMLN representatives last February in Oaxtepec, Mexico. (Basic data from Notimex, 06/05/89)

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