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Deborah Tyroler

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by Deborah Tyroler
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On Aug. 8 in a communique broadcast by Radios Farabundo Marti and Venceremos, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) praised the summit agreement issued Aug. 7, described as "a victory for revolutionary, progressive, independent and democratic forces of the region." Col. Rene Emilio Ponce, head of the joint chiefs of staff, said the accords constituted "a big political defeat for the FMLN" because they "vehemently urge" the FMLN to agree to an "immediate and effective cease-fire." Guillermo Ungo, president of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), said it was positive that El Salvador's conflict was recognized at the summit. Eduardo Colindres, former chief of staff to Christian Democrat Jose Napoleon Duarte, said the accords obligate President Alfredo Cristiani "to fulfill commitments to strengthening democracy." Both Ungo and Colindres noted the opposition's recent efforts to see negotiations resumed between the government and the FMLN. In his inaugural address, Cristiani offered to talk with the FMLN, but proposed a non-governmental commission for such talks. The FMLN described such commission as dilatory and doomed to failure. Upon returning from the summit on Monday night, Cristiani reportedly said that he is now willing to enter into direct dialogue with the FMLN. (Basic data from AP, 08/08/89)

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