10-20-1989

Salvadoran Peace Talks To Continue In Venezuela Next Month

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen

Recommended Citation

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.
Salvadoran Peace Talks To Continue In Venezuela Next Month

by Deborah Tyroler
Category/Department: General
Published: Friday, October 20, 1989

After extending talks for one day at a Roman Catholic convent in Costa Rica, on Oct. 18 representatives of the Salvadoran government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) agreed to resume the talks next month in Venezuela. (See CAU 10/18/89 for details of both sides' proposals and summary of first two days of meeting.) Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria said the agreement was "no great achievement, but it strengthens the peace process." FMLN commander Shafik Handal said, "It's not something spectacular, but it's a step on the path to a political solution." In a two-page final communique, the two delegations listed differences on major issues such as how to define the end of the war. According to the New York Times, several members of the FMLN delegation were disappointed that the communique did not include an agreement to prevent human rights abuses and reduce the war's effects on civilians.

In San Salvador, a communique by the National Salvadoran Workers Unity (UNTS) said that the government's proposal presented in Costa Rica demonstrated that it lacked "real power" which remains in the hands of the military, evidenced by demands for the guerrillas' immediate surrender and incorporation into civilian political life. The statement said, "As long as the problems of the Salvadoran majority are not resolved, there will be no peace." According to the UNTS, since the civil war is an all-enshrining phenomenon in El Salvador, an equally sweeping solution to the war must be found. The communique said the government's repression of civil liberties and economic plans are forms of war rather than peace, while the cost of such policies is borne mainly by workers. The UNTS called on the government to "dismantle the death squads, cease indiscriminate arrests, terminate dismissals of public sector employees and restructure its preferred economic model...that benefits only business owners." The communique asserted that recent assassinations of labor union activists, as well as civilians and family members of military officers "are part of the government's strategy, perpetrated by members of ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] who oppose negotiations." (Basic data from Notimex, Xinhua, 10/18/89; New York Times, 10/19/89)

-- End --