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On Nov. 2, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) announced that it was temporarily withdrawing from peace talks until the government provided adequate "guarantees" for the safety of popular organizations. FMLN and government representatives were scheduled to hold a third round of talks this year on Nov. 20-21 in Caracas, Venezuela. The FMLN's decision followed the Oct. 31 bombing of the FENASTRAS headquarters where some 60 union leaders were meeting, causing 10 deaths and serious injuries to 29 people. (See 11/01/89 CAU.) In a broadcast over private radio station YSU, the FMLN said they had information the bombing was planned and carried out by the military in retaliation for an Oct. 30 guerrilla attack on the Defense Ministry. The statement said chief of staff Gen. Rene Ponce approved attacks "which were known and authorized by President [Alfredo] Cristiani and were executed by Col. [Francisco] Elena Fuentes, commander of the shady 1st Infantry Brigade squadron." Thousands of people, many chanting "Death to D'Aubuisson!" marched through downtown San Salvador in a funeral procession for the victims of Tuesday's bombing. Roberto D'Aubuisson is founder and honorary president of the Republican Nationalist Alliance (ARENA). Prior to the march, labor union leaders warned security forces to stay away from the funeral procession, asserting that they would be responsible for any violent incidents. Soldiers and police stayed well away during most of the march. The only incident occurred when a soldier tossed a tear-gas grenade at the rear of a march, leaving a few dozen demonstrators crying and coughing. [On Nov. 1, AFP cited Rosales hospital sources who said that three more people had died from wounds suffered in the Oct. 31 bombing, bringing the death toll to 10. The sources said two union leaders remained in serious condition at Rosales hospital, while another 20 were dropped from the critical list. Six union members were killed outright. FENASTRAS chief Febe Elizabeth Velasquez died an hour later of head wounds.] (Basic data from AFP, 11/01/89, 11/02/89; AP, 11/02/89)

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