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Salvadoran President Announces Creation Of International Commission To Investigate Bombing Of Fenastras Headquarters

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Nov. 3 at a press conference in San Salvador, President Alfredo Cristiani asserted that the government will not abandon peace talks, despite the decision by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) to suspend participation in the Nov. 21-22 round. Next, he dismissed suggestions that the government and the armed forces were in any way responsible for the Oct. 31 bombing of the FENASTRAS headquarters. (See CAU 11/01/89 and 11/03/89 for coverage of the attack on FENASTRAS.) Cristiani announced that his government had established a commission to investigate the bombing. He said he has invited representatives of the Salvadoran Catholic Church, FENASTRAS and other labor unions, political parties, the United Nations and the Organization of American States to participate in the commission. The president said Central American University (UCA) rector, Jesuit priest Ignacio Ellacuria, Justice Minister Mauricio Santamaria, and Attorney General Mauricio Coorado had agreed to serve on the commission. Cristiani was accompanied at the press conference by chief of staff Col. Rene Emilio Ponce. (Basic data 11/03/89)

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