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Asst. Secretary Of State Aronson Visits El Salvador

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Nov. 6, at the conclusion of a surprise visit to San Salvador, Asst. Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, Bernard Aronson said that terrorists of the extreme left and the extreme right "are enemies of democracy." During his brief stay, Aronson met with President Alfredo Cristiani, the military high command, and representatives of political parties and FENASTRAS. After declaring support for a commission created by Cristiani to investigate the Oct. 31 bombing, Aronson said he hoped FENASTRAS leaders would accept participation in the investigation. FENASTRAS has rejected Cristiani's offer, arguing that "in this country no investigation has ever produced anything on crimes committed against the popular movement." In response to a reporter's question regarding statements by a former member of the Salvadoran security forces on involvement by the US and the Salvadoran military with the death squads, Aronson said, "No credible evidence exists." According to Aronson, the extreme left has attempted to provoke a reaction by the extreme right, but President Cristiani has responded in a positive fashion to end the violence. Aronson met briefly with members of the political opposition, including Ruben Zamora and Guillermo Ungo of the Democratic Convergence. Zamora said they told Aronson that the end of government subordination to the military was absolutely necessary. Ungo said he told the official that the US "must play a positive role...[W]e attempted to make him see the contradictions between President Bush's discourse on advances in Salvadoran democracy and the reality we live of repression and bombs. (Basic data from Notimex, 11/06/89)

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