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Deborah Tyroler

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El Salvador: Report On Material Damages

by Deborah Tyrooler

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According to a Salvadoran government report early this week, material damages caused by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's (FMLN) offensive launched on Nov. 11, and the government's response to the same, are estimated at $100 million. Included are indirect costs due to the shutdown of economic activities. On Dec. 7, the San Salvador office of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) reported that the rebel offensive had caused at least $40 million worth of damage to the economy. Including the loss of production, the damage could increase to $60 million. USAID El Salvador director Henry Bassford told reporters the fighting between the guerrillas and the armed forces had forced more than 150,000 people to evacuate their homes. He said 1,200 civilians had been wounded in San Salvador and another 600 wounded in other areas. The government had reported damage or destruction to 30,000 houses. Bassford's estimate was 4,000. USAID is currently supplying the government with about $8 million in emergency aid, including medicines, food, clothing and material to restore electricity and drinking water. Since Nov. 11, the FMLN has destroyed 77 buses, several tons of coffee and two gasoline stations. Stepped-up sabotage of the country's electricity grid has affected over half of El Salvador. (Basic data from Notimex, AFP, 12/07/89)

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