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Tegucigalpa: Regional Forum Participants Call For Reduced Military Budgets, More Health Spending

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In Tegucigalpa, Honduras, a regional forum titled "Democracy and Health" took place this week, sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Organization of American States (OAS) health division. After discussing the regional conflict, participants agreed that war has had a negative impact on the health of Central Americans. Honduran legislator Mauricio Mendoza told Notimex that participants agreed that military budgets must be reduced, and health spending increased. WHO director Luis Octavio Angel reported that 38.9% of all Central Americans live in extreme poverty. This proportion rises to over 50% in El Salvador and Honduras, and nearly 75% in Guatemala. According to WHO statistics, in Central America 431,000 children are displaced, 281,000 qualify as refugees, and 17,000 as repatriates. Participants included public health officials and politicians from the five Central American nations. (Basic data from Notimex, 05/30/90)

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