

6-29-1990

El Salvador: Round Of Peace Talks Produces No "major Progress"; Next Round Scheduled For Late July

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen>

Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "El Salvador: Round Of Peace Talks Produces No "major Progress"; Next Round Scheduled For Late July." (1990). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/4125>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

El Salvador: Round Of Peace Talks Produces No "major Progress"; Next Round Scheduled For Late July

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, June 29, 1990

Representatives of the Salvadoran government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) participated in a round of UN-mediated peace talks from June 19 through June 25 in Oaxtepec, Mexico. Alvaro de Soto, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's personal representative was present. A brief summary of developments follows. June 19: At the close of the first session of peace talks, FMLN spokesperson Roberto Canas said the Frente demanded that the government reduce the size of the military and purge its ranks of human rights violators. "This is the substantive phase of the negotiations and if (the issue) is not resolved, I don't believe there will be any progress," he said. Last week, President Alfredo Cristiani insisted the rebels agree to an immediate cease-fire before discussing other issues, although he did not rule out military troop reductions. June 20: FMLN representative Roberto Canas said, "It is a victory for the FMLN to be talking about the armed forces because that has been a taboo subject in El Salvador in the last 10 years of war." The two sides last met in Caracas at which time the FMLN called for a reduction and purge of the armed forces and an end to impunity for crimes committed by members of the military, as well as the dismantlement of paramilitary groups and an end to the draft. The military currently numbers about 55,000, and paramilitary organizations, about 100,000. June 22: At a press conference in San Salvador, Marco Tulio Lima, leader of the National Salvadoran Workers Unity (UNTS), said the armed forces constitute the principal obstacle to peace and democratization. He added that the Salvadoran people demand a restructuring and purge of the military forces, described as essential to advance the peace process. Lima said, "The military must be reduced and subsumed to civilian power...and [police forces] and civilian defense corps must be dismantled as military structures." Next, the UNTS leader asserted that the FMLN must be "inflexible" on the matter of transforming the country's armed forces, because "if the current structure remains intact, human rights violations will not end." June 25: At the conclusion of the talks, spokespersons for both sides said no major progress toward a cease-fire or political agreements had been made. The next round of talks is scheduled for late July, possibly in Mexico or Costa Rica. June 27: President Cristiani said he believed that the government and the rebels would reach a cease-fire by September. June 28: Salvador Samayoa, member of the FMLN political diplomatic commission, said the two sides had not arrived at any principles of understanding on the topic of the armed forces. During the talks in Oaxtepec, he said, the principal topics of discussion were military impunity, and the need for a purge of military ranks. (Basic data from AFP, 06/20/90, 06/25/90, 06/27/90; AP, 06/20/90; Notimex, 06/21/90, 06/22/90, 06/27/90, 06/28/90)

-- End --