

7-18-1990

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Salvadoran Military Placed On State Of Alert

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, July 18, 1990

On July 16, Defense Minister Gen. Humberto Larios announced that the military had been placed on a state of alert in response to a possible offensive by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). In statements released July 14, an FMLN commander said that if "substantial" progress did not occur at the next round of talks scheduled to begin July 20 in Costa Rica, the rebels would launch a nationwide offensive on larger scale than their most recent one in November. Gen. Larios told a seminar Monday that the army had lost 10,000 men in the war. Another 26,000 had been wounded, he added. In a statement, the armed forces press office said five rebels had died in weekend clashes. (Basic data from Notimex, 07/16/90)

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