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El Salvador: On Possibility Of Military Coup

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On July 18, Ret. Col. Sigifredo Ochoa, currently head of the state-run electricity company, told local reporters that a coup is possible, and that such event would favor the rebels. He called on the armed forces "to not commit the stupidity" of attempting a coup. According to Ochoa, the possibility of a group of officers organizing a coup is grounded "the historical culture of the armed forces to launch coups." After condemning the FMLN's reiterated threats of another offensive to pressure the government and the army into serious peace negotiations, Ochoa said it is the people's duty to take up arms and support the armed forces and the government." Leader of the Christian Democrat party, Gerardo Le Chevalier, described Ochoa's comments as "absurd," stating that "in this country there is no one further to the right than ARENA." (Basic data from Notimex, 07/18/90)

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