

8-24-1990

Rebel Leader Cienfuegos: 2,000 U.S. Military Officers Took Control Of Salvadoran Army During November Offensive

Deborah Tyroler

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

Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Rebel Leader Cienfuegos: 2,000 U.S. Military Officers Took Control Of Salvadoran Army During November Offensive." (1990). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/4300>

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.

Rebel Leader Cienfuegos: 2,000 U.S. Military Officers Took Control Of Salvadoran Army During November Offensive

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, August 24, 1990

On Aug. 23 in an interview with Notimex (Mexican government's international news service), Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) commander Ferman Cienfuegos said that about 2,000 US soldiers including advisers and technicians took control of the Salvadoran army six days into the rebels' last major offensive, which commenced Nov. 11, 1989. According to Cienfuegos, in six days the FMLN managed to cause "strategic disequilibrium" within the Salvadoran high command. The Pentagon's response was to bring in specialists from the 82nd Airborne based in Palmerola, Honduras. Cienfuegos said the US officers took over command of the Salvadoran army's attempt to quash the offensive. The US assistance included a computerized system to organize bombings against civilian targets, or against rebel targets located in densely populated areas. He added that the bombing of Soyapango was directed by US officers. Next, Cienfuegos asserted that the US Defense Department has evidence on the persons responsible for the murders of six Jesuit priests and two women on the campus of San Salvador's Central America University on Nov. 16. At that time, he pointed out, US troops were in control of the Salvadoran military's counter-offensive. The rebel commander emphasized that despite the US intervention, the FMLN offensive managed to break the political deadlock in the peace talks. He reiterated that the rebels will launch similar offensive if necessary, since such tactic is considered legitimate "as long as the war continues." (Basic data from Notimex, 08/23/90)

-- End --