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El Salvador: Defense Minister Says F.m.l.n. Offensives Will Undermine Peace Talks

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Sept. 4, Defense Minister Col. Rene Emilio Ponce warned that threats by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) of an escalation in offensive activities this month has "destabilized" the climate for the next round of peace talks scheduled to begin next week in Costa Rica. On Sept. 3, the FMLN announced military actions this month to mark the 169th anniversary of Central American independence from Spain. Next, Ponce referred to detention of a French national last week by the Honduran army. The woman allegedly left Nicaragua carrying weapons and plans for attacks on Salvadoran army bases. Ponce claimed the incident proved "that the FMLN is still receiving aid from Nicaragua. The Sandinista army which is still in power has a formal and an ideological agreement with the FMLN." (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 09/04/90, 09/05/90)

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