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El Salvador: Notes On Recent Fighting

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Sept. 21: The military press office (COPREFA) reported that four soldiers and two rebels pertaining to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) died in pre-dawn fighting during rebel attacks on three military posts. Three soldiers and two rebels were killed during a rebel attack in Jucuaran, 130 km. east of San Salvador. Another rebel was killed in a separate clash in eastern El Salvador. Rebel attacks on National Guard posts in Jucuapa and Chinameca produced no casualties.

Sept. 23: In a broadcast by Radio Farabundo Marti, the FMLN reported 100 government troop casualties from Sept. 16 through Sept. 22. Fighting took place in the village of Jucuaran, Usulutan department, 145 km. southeast of San Salvador. Rebels downed four helicopters on Sept. 22 in Usulutan and Morazaban departments. In addition, guerrillas dynamited 11 electricity towers and transmission lines, causing blackouts in several areas, including the capital city.

Sept. 24: The armed forces press office (COPREFA) reported that over the weekend five rebels and three soldiers were killed, and another seven soldiers wounded, in fighting near San Agustin, Usulutan department. "Important war material" was confiscated by the army. Next, five rebels and one soldier died and two soldiers were wounded in fighting in Las Vueltas, located in northern El Salvador. COPREFA reported that the elite Belloso battalion dismantled three rebel camps in Chalatenango department. COPREFA reported a total of 32 casualties including soldiers, rebels and civilians over the past three days. The total included the deaths of 16 rebels and four soldiers. Three civilians and nine soldiers were wounded. Heavy fighting took place at the El Corozal estate, Usulutan department, and in Plan del Barro and San Jose, Chalatenango department. The three civilians were wounded upon setting off a fragmentation grenade while working the soil on the Loma Chata estate, San Jose Guaylabal, Chalatenango department. (Basic data from Notimex, 09/24/90; AFP, 09/21/90, 09/23/90, 09/24/90)

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