

El Salvador: Peace Talk Round Between Rebels & Government Postponed

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On Nov. 2 in Mexico City, participants in talks between representatives of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and eight political parties said they had reached no agreements on how to further the peace process. Major agenda items were military issues and the March 1991 elections. Francisco Guerrero, representative of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) and President Alfredo Cristiani's personal secretary, told reporters that the next round of peace talks between the FMLN and the government had been postponed until "around Nov. 20." The round had been scheduled to begin Nov. 4 in Mexico. On Nov. 4 in San Salvador, Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas called on the rebels and government officials to continue the peace talk process. He said that peace is possible only when accompanied by "justice, truth and freedom." A political agreement, said the prelate, must occur before the March 17 elections in order to end "this living nightmare." He added that elections alone will not resolve the country's conflicts. Riveras commented that the agreement between the FMLN and the government to refrain from making public statements during the upcoming peace talk round should reduce the level of psychological warfare. UN mediator Alvaro de Soto is to serve as spokesperson for both sides during the talks. (Basic data from AFP, 11/02/90, 11/04/90; EFE, 11/04/90)

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