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Salvadoran Rebels Say Summit Statement "irrelevant"

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Dec. 17 in an interview broadcast by San Salvador radio YSU, Salvador Samayoa, a member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's political-diplomatic commission, said the Central American summit statement is "irrelevant." (See summary, this issue, of summit developments.) According to Samayoa, the statement is asking the FMLN to introduce an immediate cease-fire, "when we already have an agreement established in Geneva specifying that political agreements will precede a cease-fire. What right do these...presidents have to be interfering in resolutions that were already adopted?" The rebel leader said President Alfredo Cristiani arrived at the summit in tears and full of complaints, requesting that "the others save him from the situation he finds himself in...Our only comment...is that the army should be embarrassed. Equipped with an incredible war machine, they are brave enough to repress unarmed civilians, but when they confront the guerrillas they run away crying to ask for help." Samayoa described as "illogical" the presidents' demand that the FMLN refrain from using sophisticated weaponry, such as surface-to-air missiles. He added, "Logic requires that they request as well that the air force stop bombing civilian targets in order for us to stop using sophisticated weapons." Finally, Samayoa pointed out that at the time the FMLN launched its series of military operations beginning Nov. 20, the army had commenced a large-scale nationwide operation, as part of a counter-insurgency offensive. (Basic data from AFP, 12/17/90)

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