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Colombia: Notes On Peace Negotiations With Two Rebel Organizations

by Barbara Khol

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On July 22, Popular Liberation Army (EPL) rebel group leaders requested in a letter to national government officials that the Catholic Church supervise and monitor the peace talks and eventual cease-fire between the government and the EPL. EPL representatives, Interior Minister Horacio Serpa and presidential peace envoy Rafael Pardo were scheduled to meet July 25 near Pueblo Nuevo, a village located in Antioquia department. On July 23, government officials told reporters that the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT) met with government representatives "somewhere" in Colombia. The presidency's press office released a communique signed by Interior Deputy Minister Jose Noe Rios and PRT leader Valentin Gonzalez stating that the two sides desire a process that will lead to full democratization of the country, and incorporation of the rebels into legal political participation. The communique said that on Aug. 3, at a site yet to be determined, a general agreement will be signed on peace talk guidelines. (Basic data from AFP, 07/22/90, 07/23/90)

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