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"preliminary" U.N. Human Rights Monitoring Mission Arrives In El Salvador

by Deborah Tyroler

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On March 17, a UN human rights monitoring mission convened with members of the army high command in San Salvador. According to government and Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) sources, in addition to war zones, the UN appointees will visit several rebel-controlled areas (ONU), and submit recommendations to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar regarding fulfillment of human rights accords signed by government and rebel representatives on July 29, 1990, and establishing a more permanent presence of a UN human rights observer mission in El Salvador. On Saturday, the mission visited Perquin, Morazan department, and conflict zones in Chalatenango department. Members of the special UN mission arrived in El Salvador on March 13 for a 10-day visit. In a broadcast by Radio Venceremos, rebel spokespersons said the UN wants opinions by rebel commanders and combatants. The "preliminary" mission is headed by Tobal Riza, a senior official of the UN secretariat who carried out a similar mission in Nicaragua. Other members of the mission are Ricardo Vigil, chief of the UN office in San Salvador charged with preparations for setting up the human rights commission; Pedro Nimmen (Venezuela); Philippe Texier (France); Diego Garcia (Peru); Carl Johan Groth (Sweden); and military advisers Peter Fitzgerald (Ireland), Francisco Javier Zorzo and Enrique Vega (Spain). (Basic data from AFP, 03/12/91, 03/17/91)

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