

5-15-1991

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Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Aftermath Of Salvadoran Peace Talks: Summary Of Events & Statements, May 8 - May 13." (1991).
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Aftermath Of Salvadoran Peace Talks: Summary Of Events & Statements, May 8 - May 13

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Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, May 15, 1991

May 8: The Rev. Edgar Palacios of the Permanent National Committee for Peace (CPDN) criticized President Alfredo Cristiani's administration and the US government for putting conditions on implementation of the April 27 accords between delegations of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and the Salvadoran government. In May 1990, the two sides convened in Caracas, and agreed that political reforms must precede a ceasefire. May 9: President Cristiani told reporters in San Salvador that the government is under no obligation to immediately ratify constitutional reforms contained the April 27 accords. Prior to final approval of the amendments, he said, other issues must be settled, such as restructuring of the armed forces and a ceasefire. In a Radio Farabundo Marti broadcast, the FMLN said that the government was giving in to pressures from Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) and military hardliners. May 10: FMLN spokespersons announced that sabotage of the national electricity grid was "negotiable" within a global agreement which "eliminates the causes of the war." [Over the previous three weeks, rebel sabotage caused a 47% power shortage nationwide, resulting in blackouts and rationing limited to six hours per day.] May 11: In a Radio Venceremos broadcast, the FMLN said sabotage would end May 12 if the government agreed to demilitarize the nation, and demonstrated greater flexibility in the ongoing peace talks. May 12: Radio Venceremos reported that the army continues to be committed to a military victory, and is attempting to remove the UN as mediator in the peace talks. Next, the FMLN said the army has commenced a new counterinsurgency campaign "concentrated in areas on the periphery" of rebel-controlled territory in Morazan department. May 13: At a press conference in San Salvador, Vice President Francisco Merino said he would ask UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to demand "responsible behavior" on the part of the FMLN, and rebel compliance with the April accords. Merino asserted that the FMLN had decided to boycott the next round of talks. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 05/11/91, 05/12/91; AFP, 05/11/91, 05/13/91; Salpress News, 05/09/91, 05/10/91)

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