

9-27-1991

El Salvador: On Conclusion Of Government-rebel Talks At U.N. Headquarters

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen>

Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "El Salvador: On Conclusion Of Government-rebel Talks At U.N. Headquarters." (1991).
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/6443>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

El Salvador: On Conclusion Of Government-rebel Talks At U.N. Headquarters

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, September 27, 1991

On Sept. 25 at United Nations headquarters in New York, after 10 days of closed-door meetings, government and rebel negotiators reached a broad-based accord aimed at laying the groundwork for reintegration of Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) combatants into civilian society. (See CAU 09/25/91 for previous coverage of New York meetings.) The accord specifies that following settlement of a definitive peace accord, demobilized rebels would be integrated into a new civilian police force. In addition, rebel combatants and their families would be granted titles to land in areas currently occupied by the rebels. The agreement also calls for several economic, social and military reforms. Military reforms include troop strength reduction and purges of armed forces personnel involved in human rights abuses. An ad hoc committee will be created to oversee military purges. Two officers appointed by the military high command are to be limited to access of committee deliberations. Next, the agreement specifies establishment of a National Commission for Peace Consolidation (COPAZ) to oversee compliance after a definitive accord is reached. During the interim, participants agreed that the COPAZ should commence operating "in a transitional manner as defined by commission members." The commission is charged with "issuing whatever conclusions and recommendations regarding execution of the [final] peace accords it deems appropriate." COPAZ members follow: two government representatives, including one military officer; two FMLN members; and, one representative for each political party or coalition with seats in the national legislature. Archbishop of San Salvador Arturo Rivera y Damas and a member of the UN observer mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) will have observer status. Decisions or recommendations are to take place via a simple majority vote. UN mediator Alvaro de Soto said direct peace talks had been scheduled to resume Oct. 12. He emphasized that difficulties ahead should not be underestimated. If necessary, he added, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar would mediate the next set of talks. In statements to reporters, FMLN delegation members Francisco Jovel and Shafick Handal expressed satisfaction with the accords. They reiterated a proposal for instituting an immediate one-year truce while negotiations continue. During a televised broadcast from New York, Oscar Santamaria said the FMLN's informal proposal for a one-year truce "was never communicated to us officially." Handal said that given pressures from the extreme right, government officials have "difficulty talking about and admitting they know about" the proposed truce. Ruben Zamora, Democratic Convergence leader and National Assembly vice president, said the accord marked the most "substantial step" in the negotiations since the Geneva agreement of April 1990 which initiated the talks. He added that the Convergence "plans to back President Alfredo Cristiani and help him comply with the agreements." Roberto D'Aubuisson, founder of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), described the accords as "excellent" and in keeping with the desires of the Salvadoran people. The Salvadoran National Assembly unanimously ratified 17 constitutional reforms regarding the electoral process, including creation of a Supreme Electoral Court to oversee free elections. (Basic data from AP, 09/26/91; AFP, EFE, ACAN-EFE, 09/25/91, 09/26/91)

-- End --