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Salvadoran Peace Commission (copaz) Meeting

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Oct. 25-26 in Mexico City, members of the Salvadoran Peace Commission (COPAZ) met to continue working out details on the composition of a civilian police force. Interior Minister Antonio Martinez Varela and National Police Col. Dionisio Machuca represented the government, and Francisco Jovel and Joaquin Villalobos, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). All political parties holding seats in the national legislature were represented by one delegate apiece. Martinez Varela told reporters that participants reached agreement on the operational procedures of the new police force (reglamento interno). Further discussion on composition, he added, was postponed until the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for mid-November. The minister noted that progress was made on issues such as care for disabled war veterans, and draft legislation to create the civilian police force. Eight days after implementation of a formal cease-fire, the bill will be submitted to the national legislature for approval. COPAZ was recently established to monitor accords reached in peace negotiations between the government and the FMLN. (Basic data from AFP, 10/25/91, 10/26/91)

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