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Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (fmln) Communique On Unilateral Cease-fire (released November 16)

by Deborah Tyroler

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Given that we have entered the final stage of negotiations and wish to contribute to creating a suitable climate for reaching a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict this year, we have resolved to carry out the following actions: 1. The General Command of the FMLN agrees a. To unilaterally suspend offensive actions, urban operations and economic sabotage throughout the country effective 00.00 hours Nov. 16, 1991. b. To make every effort necessary to prolong the cease-fire until concluding a definitive cease-fire agreement. c. To modify the cease-fire decision only in the event of substantial alterations affecting the progress of negotiations under terms defined by the New York accords, or which tend to alter the balance of forces. 2. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) general command has declared a unilateral cease-fire for the following objectives: a. So that all Salvadorans can feel that peace is near and that it is possible to start the reconstruction process through a national effort. b. As a contribution to the isolation of extremist minority sectors opposed to peace who are attempting to undermine previously established agreements and slow the progress of negotiations. c. As a unilateral step which will allow the military forces of both sides...to redeploy their forces in a manner that will facilitate the consolidation of a definitive cease-fire. d. To create a national political climate favorable to reaching agreements on pending topics in the negotiations, and with the aim of accelerating an end to the armed conflict. e. To contribute to the efforts of all sectors supporting the negotiations who are dedicated to transformation of El Salvador, and opposed to prolonging the war. f. To accelerate negotiations so that the Peace Commission (COPAZ) and the UN observer mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) can fully carry out their missions of supervision and verification of compliance with the accords. g. To demonstrate to the international community our determination to conclude the negotiations with the adoption of political accords which will make possible a definitive, firm and irreversible cease-fire. 3. The FMLN General Command is convinced that accords reached thus far and the negotiation process as a whole are the result of the support of the majority of Salvadorans and the international community. Therefore, the moment has come to guarantee compliance with these accords and the successful execution of the negotiations to a definitive conclusion: a just and democratic El Salvador.

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