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## **El Salvador: Public Opinion Poll On Peace Process & Other Political Questions**

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On Nov. 12, spokespersons for the Central American University survey research institute (Instituto Universitario de Opinion Publica-IUDOP) released results of a poll on Salvadorans' perspectives on the peace process. The survey was based on 1,243 adult rural and urban residents. A total of 51.7% of respondents said they doubted "real peace" is at hand; 32% expressed belief that the war will end soon; and, 16.3% had no opinion. Next, 36.4% of respondents said the government, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and the United Nations together have demonstrated the most effort to achieve peace. In contrast, 19.3% indicated that the government alone had put forth the most effort in this regard; 18.1%, the UN; and, 2.7%, the FMLN. On the most important issue to be resolved in the peace talks, 30% of respondents said economic problems; 16.7%, integration of the FMLN into civilian society; 23%, reduction and purges of the armed forces; 4.7%, judicial reform; and 2.7%, a cease-fire agreement. Forty-six percent of respondents asserted that US military aid to El Salvador should be terminated, while 31% said it should continue. For 65% of respondents, the economic situation had deteriorated in the past year, while 21% said it has not changed. A large majority, 88%, agreed that prices on basic consumer goods had increased "excessively" or "considerably" under President Alfredo Cristiani's administration. A majority, 64.2%, expressed opposition to privatization of state-run enterprises. When asked to compare the administration of former president Jose Napoleon Duarte with the current one, 36.2% of respondents said they preferred Duarte's; 27.3% expressed preference for the Cristiani government; and, 21% said the two were effectively the same. (Basic data from Agence France- Presse, 12/05/91)

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