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Deborah Tyroler

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## **El Salvador: Summary Of Developments In Peace Process (part 1)**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Dec. 16 in New York, government and rebel negotiators reconvened peace talks in an effort to reach a peace agreement before the end of Javier Perez de Cuellar's term as UN secretary general Dec. 31. The government delegation was headed by Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria and Interior Minister Col. Juan Martinez Varela. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) was represented by the five members of the FMLN general command: Joaquin Villalobos, Salvador Sanchez Ceren, Eduardo Sanchez (Ferman Cienfuegos), Shafick Jorge Handal and Francisco Jovel. Roberto Canas served as FMLN spokesperson. Also attending were UN mediator Alvaro de Soto and UN undersecretary general for special political affairs Marrack Goulding. [See CAU 12/20/91 for previous coverage of this round of the Salvadoran peace talks.] Dec. 23: De Soto told reporters that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar officiated over the first direct meeting between government and rebel negotiators. De Soto said the two delegations submitted proposals on the organization and make-up of the future national civilian police force. After describing the session as "difficult," the UN mediator said no progress was made on the police force issue. An unidentified rebel source cited by the Agence France-Presse said an FMLN proposal that the rebels meet with members of the National Peace Commission (COPAZ) was rejected by the government delegation. Dec. 27: UN spokesperson Francois Giuliani told reporters that Goulding mediated during a round of direct talks between rebel and government negotiators on cease-fire terms. He said Goulding presented submitted a new cease-fire proposal for discussion by the two sides. Dec. 28: President Alfredo Cristiani arrived in New York for a three-day visit. The president was accompanied by Defense Minister Rene Emilio Ponce and Ricardo Calderon Sol, San Salvador mayor and head of Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) party. Cristiani told reporters that he would meet with Perez de Cuellar only, and had no plans to participate in direct talks with FMLN delegation members. Dec. 29: Perez de Cuellar met separately with the rebel delegation and President Cristiani. The secretary general told reporters that "significant advances" had been made although difficulties remained with respect to "the [civilian police force], reduction of military troop strength, and socio-economic issues." According to Perez de Cuellar, a final accord would not be concluded prior to year-end. He said the objective was to reach "substantial and irreversible accords" to be formalized in 1992. Dec. 30: US Ambassador to the UN Thomas Pickering and US assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs Bernard Aronson met with Perez de Cuellar. The two US diplomats later convened with ambassadors from Colombia, Spain, Mexico and Venezuela to discuss the Salvadoran peace process. Dec. 31: Summarized below is a joint communique by government and rebel delegations announcing accords finalized on New Year's Eve. "The government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front declare that they have reached definitive accords, which, together with those formerly signed in San Jose, Mexico and New York, conclude negotiations on all of the substantive issues of the Caracas Agenda and the New York Accords. Execution [of the Dec. 31 accords] definitively ends the Salvadoran armed conflict. "Agreement has also been reached on all technical- military aspects pertaining to the...end of the armed conflict. Included are an end to the military structure of the FMLN and the full incorporation

of its members...into the nation's civil, political and institutional [structures]. "The two sides have agreed that a formal cease-fire shall commence Feb. 1, 1992, and continue through Oct. 31, 1992. "On Jan. 5, 1992, the two sides shall reconvene to negotiate a timetable for implementation of the accords and the means for dismantling the military structure of the FMLN and legally reincorporating its members into civil, political and institutional life. "These negotiations must be concluded by Jan. 10, 1992. If they are not, the two sides have agreed to accept whatever formula concerning pending issues is presented by the UN Secretary General by Jan. 14, 1992. The final accords will be signed on Jan. 16, 1992, in Mexico City. "The two sides have agreed to maintain the necessary atmosphere for continuation and deepening of the unilateral decisions which have been made to avoid all military activity." Tens of thousands took to the streets in San Salvador to celebrate the signing of the accord. During a televised interview in New York, de Soto characterized the Jan. 1-Feb. 1 period as "delicate." He said removing the armed forces from "any role in the maintenance of internal public order...[is] pretty fundamental." According to de Soto, the military must relinquish the means through which it has the power to "act as the ultimate arbiter" of Salvadoran political life. Jan. 2: A document describing the main points of the accord to be finalized Jan. 16 was distributed by the FMLN leadership to rebel combatants. Highlights are summarized below. \* Human rights. (1) Creation of human rights attorney general post. (2) The Legislative Assembly is to be empowered to fire the national civilian police force chief and the head of the national intelligence agency in cases of human rights abuse. (3) The mandate of the UN observer mission (ONUSAL) will be full oversight of respect for human rights. (4) A Truth Commission is to be established, charged with determining responsibility in cases of rights violations by the armed forces since 1980. \* Military reform. (1) The constitutional mandate of the armed forces will be reduced. (2) Troop strength is to be cut from 55,000 to 27,000. (3) Existing public security forces are to be separated and made subordinate to civilian authority. (4) The mission of the armed forces will be limited to defense of national territory and national sovereignty. (5) The Legislative Assembly is to create mechanisms to control or regulate the armed forces. (cont.)

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