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El Salvador: Broad Outlines Of Rebel Reconstruction Program

by Deborah Tyroler

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At a Feb. 10 press conference in San Salvador, Eduardo Sancho (Ferman Cienfuegos) discussed an economic reconstruction program prepared by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). Sancho said, "Our proposal is characterized by a genuine sense of national identity and is open for discussion in order to seek consensus among all social sectors." According to Sanchos, if consensus is not achieved on the content and means of national reconstruction, Salvadorans will encounter problems in obtaining foreign aid and loans. FMLN leaders have criticized the government's reconstruction plan for being grounded on "neoliberal" concepts and almost exclusively focused on public works and infrastructure repairs. The rebels' proposal points out that reconstruction "is not only a technical problem, but concerns all Salvadorans in every dimension of their lives." Sancho said the FMLN's program could be complementary to the one developed by the government. President Alfredo Cristiani has rejected "consensus" with the FMLN on the recovery program because such activity would presuppose "co-government" with the Front. However, he said the rebels' program would be "taken into consideration." One of the FMLN program's tenets is that income and wealth generation based on deepening poverty and the deterioration of the few natural resources which remain in El Salvador must end. Instead, national rebuilding efforts must focus on renewable natural resources, such as in forestry and fisheries; conservation of land and water for irrigation; and, plant and animal genetic diversification. Other major tenets of the rebel plan are food self-sufficiency and organizing the economy to meet basic needs. (Basic data from Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias-Spanish news service EFE, 02/10/92)

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