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Summary Of Developments: Implementation Of Salvadoran Peace Accords & Related Events

by Deborah Tyroler
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Feb. 14: Planning Minister Mirna Lievano formally presented the government's National Reconstruction Plan (PRN) to a Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) commission headed by FMLN commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez. Other FMLN commission members were Mauricio Chavez, Marisol Galindo, Aida Herrera and Rafael Benavides. Also present at the meeting was UN Development Programme (UNDP) representative Walter Franco. Following the meeting, Lievano told reporters that on Feb. 17, the ministry’s task force on reconstruction would reconvene to hear recommendations by the FMLN. She added, "We know that this is a process...and those suggestions which would improve the PRN will be taken into account." In response to the Front's criticisms of the plan, Lievano said only a third of the reconstruction program pertains to infrastructure repair. Most of the projects encompassed under the plan focus on improving living conditions in the areas of health, education, job training and economic development, and on reintegration of former rebel and army combatants into civilian life. FMLN leader Joaquin Villalobos said the FMLN's main objections to the government plan stem from the fact that it fails to take into account the needs of all Salvadorans, nor are poverty and marginalization addressed. He added that the reconstruction process should be based on input from all social sectors, not just the government and the FMLN. Juan Hector Vidal, director of the National Private Enterprise Association (ANEP), said the PRN should be the product of a social pact which strengthens the peace accords, and should address moral as well as economic problems in order to bring Salvadorans together to live in peace.

The National Peace Commission (COPAZ) released a communique calling on property owners and occupants of contested holdings to use a "constructive and cooperative vision" in interpreting the accords and to seek means other than violence to solve disputes. COPAZ urged Salvadorans to terminate land occupations and related measures, and requested that property owners refrain from evictions. The FMLN was scheduled to submit an inventory of occupied plots in rebel-controlled territory on Feb. 15. The inventoried cases are to be reviewed by COPAZ over the next six months.

Feb. 15: The Legislative Assembly elected five members to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE). Under the peace accords, the TSE replaces the Central Elections Council (CCE). Attorney Ernesto Criollo was elected TSE president. The other four TSE members will be Jaime Romero (ARENA); Eduardo Colindres of the Christian Democrat Party (PDC); Pedro Solorzano of the Democratic Convergence (three-party coalition); and, Rutilio Aguilera of the National Conciliation Party (PCN). The tribunal members, elected by 83 of 84 possible votes, were scheduled to be sworn in on Feb. 20. The TSE is charged with developing a new electoral code and organizing the March 1994 general elections. [The TSE members were selected from a list of nominees submitted by the Supreme Court of Justice and the four political parties which obtained the largest number of seats in the national congress in the 1991 elections. The CEE was comprised of three members selected by the political parties with the most seats in the national legislature.] UN observer mission to El Salvador (ONUSAL) military commander Gen. Victor Suanzes said that the second phase of separation of forces had thus far proceeded without incident. [Between Feb. 7 and March 2 rebel combatants must congregate in 15 designated areas, down from a previous 50, and government troops in 62 areas,
reduced from 94. [Basic data from World Perspectives Magazine (Madison, WI), 02/11/92; Agence France-Presse, Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias-Spanish news service EFE, 02/14/92, 02/15/92; Notimex, 02/14/92]

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