2-28-1992

U.N. Human Rights Commission Decides Against Condemnation Of Guatemala

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen

Recommended Citation
https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/7145

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.
U.N. Human Rights Commission Decides Against Condemnation Of Guatemala

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General
Published: Friday, February 28, 1992

On Feb. 27, Vice President Gustavo Espina told reporters that the UN Human Rights Commission, currently in session in Geneva, had approved a resolution which stopped short of condemning the Guatemalan government for continued human rights violations. He said the resolution meant that the Commission would continue advising Guatemala on ways to improve its human rights record, including continued assistance from special investigator Christian Tomuschat, appointed by the Commission in July 1990. Espina said the resolution mentioned the Serrano administration's demonstration of political will to improve the human rights climate, and serious peace negotiations with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG). On Feb. 20, Goncalo de Santa-Clara Gomes, Portuguese Ambassador to the European Economic Community (EEC), told reporters that the EEC had informed the Commission of its great concern about the human rights situation in Guatemala. De Santa-Clara Gomes cited the report by UN special investigator Tomuschat which indicated no significant improvements. The ambassador said, "Efforts by the government of President [Jorge] Serrano and his commitment to get the armed forces to cooperate in eliminating death squads and violence from paramilitary groups have thus far been insufficient." He added that while the most serious abuses had diminished, disappearances, summary and arbitrary executions, and murders of street children continue. The EEC formally requested that the UN Commission move discussion of Guatemala from agenda point 19 to 12. Agenda point 19 deals with provision of "consultative services," or supporting efforts by government institutions dedicated to improving respect for human rights performance. Point 12 involves a higher degree of intervention, and is generally accompanied by both a condemnation and appointment of a special investigator. Several organizations testified in Geneva on the human rights situation in Guatemala including the Latin American Federation of Families of the Detained-Disappeared (FEDEFAM), International Association Against Torture, and the Commission for the Defense of Human Rights in Central America (CODEHUCA). [Basic data from 02/18/92 report by Guatemala Human Rights Commission (Washington, DC); Agence France-Presse, 02/20/92, 02/27/92; Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias-Spanish news service EFE, 02/21/92, 02/27/92)

-- End --