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El Salvador: Opposition Leaders Reflect On Significance Of Roberto D'aubuisson's Death

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According to Christian Democrat (PDC) deputy Gerardo Le Chevalier, Roberto d'Aubuisson was "the symbol of unity" of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA). Le Chevalier said d'Aubuisson, who headed ARENA since 1981, exercised such extensive "charismatic and ideological" control that it allowed him to neutralize opponents within the party and move peace negotiations forward successfully. According to Le Chevalier, San Salvador mayor Armando Calderon was the only ARENA member who could be considered a future leader of the rightwing, and even he "lacks many of the qualities" exercised by d'Aubuisson. The Christian Democrat leader said he expects two factions to emerge within ARENA. The larger of the two factions will rally around Calderon, while the other is expected to support retired colonel Sigifredo Ochoa, who heads the Rio Lempa Hydroelectric Executive Commission (CEL). Nationalist Democratic Union (UDN) Deputy Luis Galvez echoed predictions that a "dispute" over ARENA leadership will follow in the wake of d'Aubuisson's death. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 02/21/92)

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