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## **Donor Governments & International Organizations Approve Over US\$800 Million In Financing For Salvadoran Reconstruction**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On March 23 in Washington DC, World Bank spokespersons told reporters that the "consulting group" for El Salvador had approved over US\$800 million in financing for the Salvadoran government's economic reconstruction program. The resources are to be disbursed over a two-year period. Representatives from 12 international organizations and 19 governments (Austria, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Japan, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, US, and Venezuela) participated in the meeting held at World Bank headquarters. Activities are to be focused on 106 municipalities most affected by the civil war. The Salvadoran delegation, headed by Planning Minister Mirna Lievano, had submitted requests for a total US\$757.7 million in "urgent" assistance during the first phase of the program. Of this amount, US\$324.5 million would be channeled to social welfare projects, including health care and education; US\$268 million to infrastructure repairs and expansion; US\$137.5 million, loans and other forms of assistance to business owners; and, US\$15.6 million for environmental protection programs. Total cost of the Planning Ministry's five-year reconstruction plan is US\$1.5 billion. The US and Japanese governments made commitments for US\$200 million each for the two-year first phase; the European Economic Community, US\$65 million; and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), US\$150 million. On March 24 in Tokyo, the Japanese Foreign Ministry announced a US\$300,000 donation to the UN Development Programme (UNDP) earmarked for delivering food and medical supplies to former rebel combatants and family members currently residing in UN-supervised camps. (Basic data from Spanish news service EFE, 03/23/92; Notimex, Agence France- Presse, 03/23/92, 03/24/92; Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias-Spanish news service EFE, 03/25/92)

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