

Salvadoran 'peace plan' breaks down

by Valerie Rush

The refusal by the Cuba-allied Farabundo Martí Liberation Front (FMLN) to demobilize and disarm their forces by Oct. 31, the deadline set under the "peace plan" imposed by the United Nations upon El Salvador, has opened the gates of war in that country once again.

The FMLN was clear from the outset that it viewed the agreement, hailed as a model of supranational intervention for dealing with Marxist insurgencies on the continent, as a time-buying device, while awaiting a communist comeback globally. At the same time, pressure wielded by the U.N. in the guerrillas' favor has won the FMLN the power it never won on the battlefield.

While shooting between communists and their opponents is still sporadic, the crumbling of the U.N. accord confirms what *EIR* has been saying all along: that the "peace pact" is a recipe for war, because it is premised on the elimination of national sovereignty, and of such national institutions as the Armed Forces, and therefore is inherently unstable. The collapse of this experiment in supranational manipulation was always just a matter of time.

The guerrillas' protectors

On Oct. 26, the United Nations approved the FMLN's request for a postponement of its demobilization deadline. At the same time, the U.N.'s Ad Hoc Commission, mandated to investigate alleged human rights abuses by the Salvadoran military, presented the government with a list of over 110 high-ranking military officers, including Minister of Defense General Ponce and his deputy minister, whom they demanded be purged or transferred within 30 days. President Alfredo Cristiani declared in response on national television on Oct. 28 that he would proceed no further with the government's treaty commitments to reduce and restructure the Armed Forces until the FMLN was fully demobilized and its weapons surrendered.

In answer to the FMLN's demand that U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali convince Cristiani of "his grave error," two U.N. mediators were flown to El Salvador. Also coming to the FMLN's side was U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Bernard Aronson. Ostensibly addressing death squad threats against FMLN leaders, but in fact directing his warning to any Salvadorans who would oppose the U.N. scenario, Aronson threatened that "the United States and the entire international community will use every possible law

enforcement and investigatory tool to capture and fully prosecute anyone who commits violence against the peace process. . . . No one is going to escape."

FMLN wants power, not peace

Despite media claims that "both sides are at fault" for failing to comply with the peace accord, the plain truth is that the FMLN is *not* demobilizing, yet is demanding—with full U.S. and U.N. backing—that the Salvadoran state demilitarize. The 40% of FMLN forces which were allegedly demobilized through Oct. 31 consisted largely of elderly people, children, and the FMLN's political representatives. And, as the *Washington Times* noted on Oct. 31, "Many of the weapons they turned in were in poor condition, with broken muzzles and parts missing, and seemed more a threat to the shooter than the target."

The FMLN has insisted that it will not turn over all weapons until Army "purification" has begun, and until it receives legal title to some 600,000 acres of land—12% of Salvadoran national territory—it claims to have won. One-fourth of that land is in El Salvador's richest coffee-growing region, and could prove an important source of wealth for the guerrilla movement. Said Joaquín Villalobos, one of the FMLN's five senior leaders, "What interests us now is economic power; we demand what we won."

The FMLN's stall tactics, while encouraging its supporters to occupy territory through land seizures, makes it clear that the guerrilla group's objective is not ending the war, but capturing the political, military, and economic power it has always sought. This was made explicit in a statement issued by the FMLN's diplomatic representative to Ibero-America at the time of the peace accord signing in January of this year. Declared Miguel Angel Amaya Cuadra, "We are negotiating as equals, as one power to another; the FMLN did not accept nor will it accept a demobilization, but rather a reconversion of its forces, where its combatants will belong to the new Civic National Police and will also join the productive sectors; and the FMLN will become a political party."

The FMLN has every hope that its power play will be assisted by the new U.S. administration of Bill Clinton. This was stated by several representatives of the São Paulo Forum, a collection of the continent's left-terrorist remnants which met in Buenos Aires in late October to give its endorsements to both Clinton and Peru's Shining Path. They said that the Democrats are "more accessible" than the Republicans.

Also assisting El Salvador's "peace process," it appears, will be the newest Nobel Peace laureate, Rigoberta Menchú, an international representative of Guatemala's narco-terrorist group URNG, whose "indigenist rights" campaign serves as a cover for the new world order's attack on the sovereign nation-state. Menchú has already requested a meeting with U.N. Secretary General Boutros-Ghali, to seek a mediating role in the "peace efforts" of El Salvador, Guatemala, and wherever else she may lend her services.