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EL SALVADOR: THE FMLN ARMS INVENTORY

The FMLN has concealed large quantities of weapons and explosives in defiance of disarmament deadlines established in the peace accords. Although external supply appears greatly diminished since the 16 January agreement, we believe the FMLN continues adding to its inventory, as indicated by the 20 May interdiction in Honduras of an arms shipment from Nicaragua destined for El Salvador.

- The FMLN's main objective in caching arms probably is to preserve the ability to pressure the Salvadoran government and military to meet their commitments under the peace accords.
- We believe the former insurgents also plan to retain a reserve military capability as insurance against the uncertain future beyond the 31 October deadline for their full demobilization and disarmament.
- In addition, they probably will be willing to sell items from the inventory to certain other radical and revolutionary groups and possibly criminal elements, to raise funds for political activities. They also may

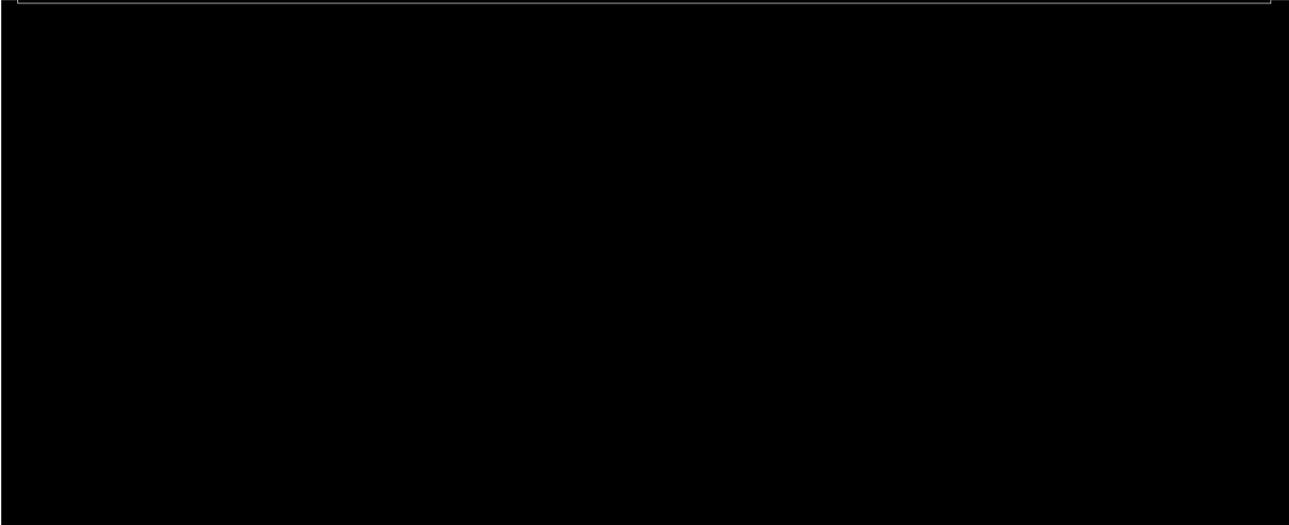
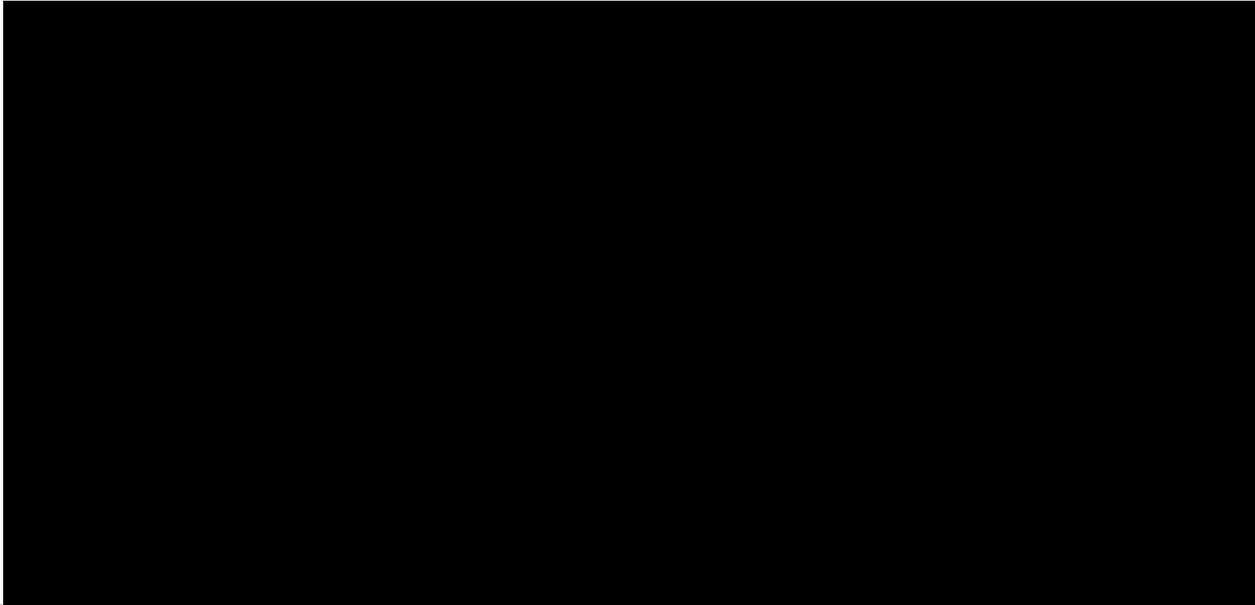
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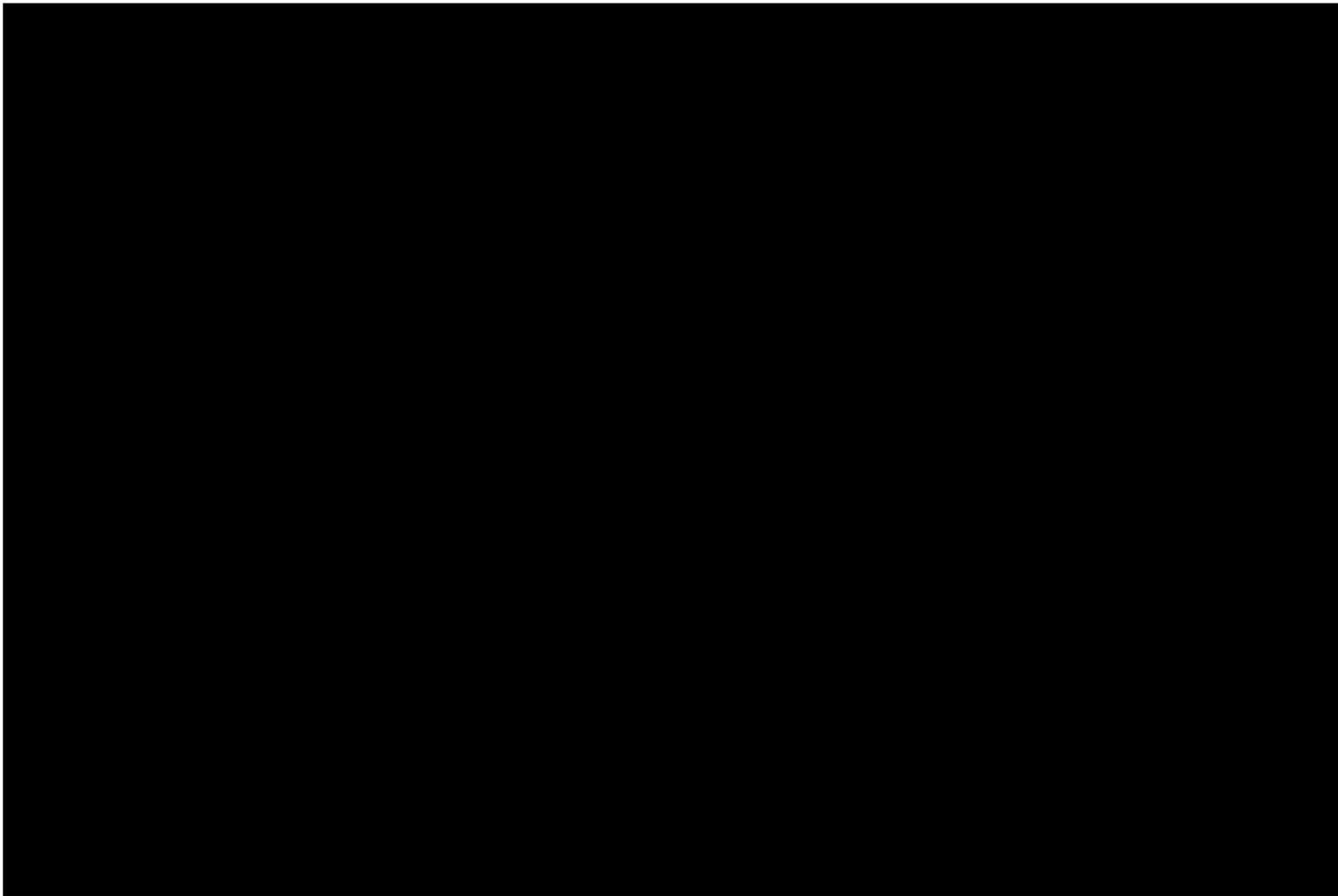
donate weapons to those groups that have been their
closest allies.

Principal Foreign Links

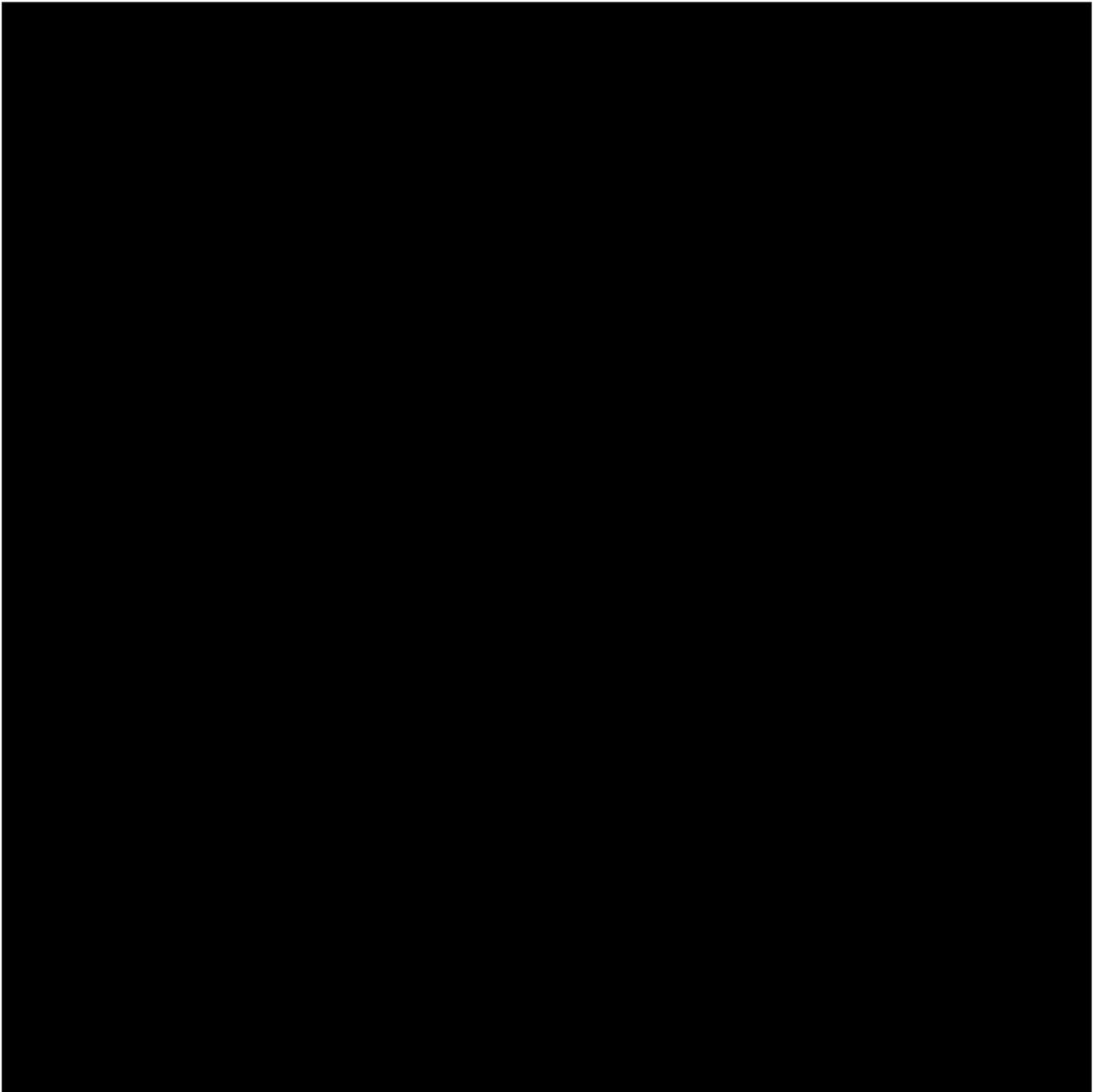
The FMLN will have little difficulty finding customers for
its arsenal. It has long maintained contacts with other
terrorist and insurgent groups, and state sponsors worldwide for
training, operational support, and arms trafficking networks.



We believe the FMLN will be reluctant to sell a significant number of weapons or any key assets such as SAMs while the cease-fire and demobilization process remain incomplete. Over time, however, arms sales to foreign groups are likely to increase. As FMLN discipline erodes, corruption will probably increase, and individuals with access to caches are likely to resort to weapons trafficking for profit.



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