

[REDACTED]

16 April 1990

[REDACTED]

## The Situation in El Salvador

### The Insurgency and Negotiations

Peace talks between the government and the FMLN insurgents are scheduled to resume in early May, and both sides appear more flexible than in the past.

- The government has dropped its precondition of a cease-fire and the military is publicly supporting the government's peace initiatives.
- The FMLN insurgents, increasingly isolated internationally, may be more inclined to negotiate seriously.
- Some FMLN leaders [REDACTED] are considering participating in the 1991 municipal and legislative elections, either directly or through a coalition of leftist parties.
- Nonetheless, some elements of the FMLN continue to favor a purely military victory, [REDACTED] and rogue units which oppose the negotiations [REDACTED] plan to continue operations. [REDACTED]

The FMLN is still trying to recover from its military setbacks in the offensive last November.

- The rebels demonstrated combat viability, but took heavy casualties and failed to achieve their major objectives.
- Although some rebels threaten a new offensive if the upcoming talks fail, others claim they need more time to recruit, train, and reequip their forces. [REDACTED]

### Human Rights

Politically-motivated killings have declined significantly over the past decade as successive governments and military leaders have made improvements in human rights a priority. Nevertheless, human rights cases often languish in the courts or

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fail to result in convictions because of political sensitivities and other problems.

- The investigation of the murders of the six Jesuit priests in San Salvador last November was generally praised by both domestic and international audiences. The case, however, is bogged down in the country's troubled judicial system.
- The judicial system remains overburdened, inefficient, and often administered by inept officials swayed by bribes or intimidation. Efforts at judicial reform--while supported by President Cristiani--promise to be difficult and politically controversial. [REDACTED]

Although the government's human rights record continues to be subjected to intense international scrutiny, it is much less an issue inside El Salvador.

- A March CID-Gallup poll indicates most Salvadorans regard the FMLN as the worst offender of human rights. [REDACTED]