

EL SALVADOR PEACE ACCORD
Comments of Ambassador Luigi R. Einaudi
U.S. Permanent Representative to the OAS
Regular Session of the Permanent Council
January 22, 1992

The accord between the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN is a major victory for peace, democracy and national reconciliation in Central America as envisioned in the Esquipulas II agreement (August 7, 1987).

We hope it will help end to more than a decade of civil strife, strengthen the democratic institutions in Salvadoran society, and clear a path for economic reconstruction for El Salvador and Central America.

We have asked the Secretariat to circulate the statement of Secretary Baker in El Salvador, January 17, so I will be brief.

My government applauds the crucial roles of UN and the "Four Friends" (Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, and Spain).

My government also recognizes the contributions of the OAS in supporting the Esquipulas process and specifically in monitoring the March 1991 national elections at a crucial stage when the negotiations needed proof that the government of El Salvador and indeed Salvadoran society were at a stage in which increased pluralism was possible.

Now that an accord has been reached, we all have an interest in supporting compliance.

My government trusts that both sides will faithfully comply, cease-fire, agree on the demobilization and resettlement of the FMLN, and carry out the many reforms contemplated under this accord.

The United States has set aside \$13 million (previously designated as "military aid") to help monitor the cease-fire and reintegrate combatants into civilian life.

The OAS must be alert to support the Salvadoran accords as well as other regional efforts to bolster security and development. The Nicaraguan Ambassador has correctly cited the OAS-CIAV precedent. I understand some discussions are already underway with the Peace Commission. Certainly one area of interest to us might be support for the new police forces.

Finally, through the Partnership for Democracy and Development in Central America, we and nations throughout the world must continue to support economic reconstruction and the aspirations of Central Americans to build a firm and lasting peace.

Speaking in Spanish, Ambassador Einaudi then allowed himself a concluding personal comment underscoring the success of U.S. policy: We never stopped supporting military assistance, defense of institutions, But we also never stopped defending human rights, political openings. The result, far from being a lost decade, the 1980s yielded fundamental lessons against violence and for democracy.