

the U.N. resolution calling for Jerusalem to be a *corpus separatum*. In reality, the Holy See no longer insists on the *corpus separatum*, but rather speaks about an internationally guaranteed special statute. As Monsignor Tauran, the Vatican 'foreign minister,' said, this means requesting a series of international guarantees concerning the Christian communities, access to the holy places, their juridical status."

Father Bux continues: "It is clear that besides these basic points, there has not yet been real progress. So much so, that two years ago, Patriarch Sabbah asked the ENEC to work out a study to give content to this formula. Now we are preparing an international seminar in Bari, during the *Fiera del Levante*, with the participation of scholars of law, history, diplomacy, and so on. We will put out a draft to define what this Internationally Guaranteed Special Statute means. After that, we must submit it to an inter-Catholic discussion forum and then to the analysis of the several Christian denominations present in Jerusalem, and finally to Muslims and Jews. This is the beginning of the process."

While Bux explains the broader plan from the standpoint of an expert in law and history, Patriarch Sabbah expressed this same concept in pastoral terms. The dialogue among believers, he said in his address to the Pope, "will help politicians to strengthen the dialogue, in mutual respect and with the aim of carrying out justice, as the only secure borders and the only way to protect the two peoples in conflict. . . . Both Palestinians and Israelis must have the same rights and the same duties guaranteed: the right to freedom, independence, to decide their political future; and duties of mutual respect and recognition, both being protected in their dignity as human beings and children of God, both protected by one justice and free from fear, from the spirit of revenge, and from any oppression."

In his address to the Pope, the director of Al-Liqa, Dr. Khoury underlined a sentence from a speech made by John Paul II months ago: "The Palestinian problem is my personal problem." Khoury told *EIR*: "I repeated that very beautiful sentence to the Pope, and I told him, if it is your personal problem, then we can be secure that your work for the good of our people will continue what you and your predecessors have already done. I refer to the University of Bethlehem, which was built thanks to Pope Paul VI and can continue to function thanks to this Pope. It is a great thing, which gives thousands of Palestinians the possibility to study and to work. This decreases the emigration of the Christians, just for a start.

"In my speech, I told the Pope twice that the PLO is the only representative of the Palestinians, and that whoever doesn't want to deal with the PLO doesn't really want peace. The Pope listened and was smiling throughout my address. At the end, he thanked me for the present we brought from Palestine. He touched it and was moved. He said, so this is wood from a Bethlehem olive tree? It was a reproduction of Leonardo's 'Last Supper,' inlaid on olive wood."

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## El Salvador

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# Superpowers decree FMLN the winner

by Gretchen Small

Elections for the national legislature and municipal governments in El Salvador took place on March 10, but for Moscow and Washington, how the citizens of that country actually voted is irrelevant. The two powers are determined to force El Salvador's government to share power with the terrorists of the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front, who are demanding international recognition of FMLN rule over parts of the country, and the disbanding of the nation's Army, as their minimal conditions for turning in their weapons.

Lest there were any doubt as to the agreement on this strategy, on March 15, Secretary of State James Baker signed a joint statement with his Soviet counterparts calling upon the Salvadoran government to "accelerate the process of negotiations."

### Arena won, fair and square

As is now customary for the developing sector, hundreds of foreign observers swarmed over the country on election day to "monitor" voting procedures. At the end of the voting, even the foreigners announced that the elections had been fair, with only minor irregularities.

Initial election results demonstrated once again that the anti-communists continue to hold a firm majority in El Salvador. The ruling, anti-communist, Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) won around 45% of the vote; the Christian Democrats held onto their second place with some 25%; and vying for third place were an Arena-ally, the National Reconciliation Party (PCN), and the coalition of parties allied with the FMLN, the Democratic Convergence (CD).

This was the first time FMLN supporters had run in elections in their own name, and from the standpoint of the superpower condominium, the crucial issue in the elections was the CD's vote. Western media made clear that the Anglo-American Establishment hoped a large vote for the CD would give the pro-power-sharing forces a majority in the Legislative Assembly, and thus provide a "democratic" cover for what they planned anyway. London's *Financial Times* wrote hopefully on the eve of elections that a strong vote by the FMLN's supporters would "break the right-wing grip on the

National Assembly.”

But the Salvadoran people trounced the FMLN at the polls, giving them somewhere between 10% and 15% of the vote. Despite Arena’s economic Achilles heel—it continues to offer only “free trade” liberalism—the party continues to enjoy, undeniably, the support of a plurality for its anti-communist policy.

## Results be damned

Once that reality became clear, the foreign press suddenly declared that there *must have been* election fraud, even though all those observers had thought otherwise.

The first shot in this new campaign was fired by the *New York Times* in a March 14 editorial which asserted that because official results were not issued immediately, there *must have been* vote fraud. The *New York Times* demanded that the Bush administration not release any further military aid to the Salvadoran government until it becomes clear who controls the Legislative Assembly, so critical for the future of negotiations between the government and the FMLN.

Likewise, London’s *Financial Times* declared in a March 19 article that the real result of the elections was that Arena’s “grip on the Legislative Assembly and the powers of state” had been “severely weakened.” Therefore Arena “may be more flexible in negotiations with the guerrillas and more susceptible to pressure from outside forces in favor of a negotiated peace.” The paper admitted that “no massive fraud” occurred, but stated that since “it is clear to everyone” that there were irregularities, and that “the true percentages won by the contending parties may never be accurately known,” the Assembly seats should therefore be simply divided up between the parties through a process of negotiations.

No wonder Miami’s *Diario las Americas*, in an editorial March 10, questioned whether the U.S. Liberal Establishment would accept the fact that “an important majority of the El Salvadoran people” gave their support to Arena. Several years ago, the paper noted, “important figures” in the U.S. Establishment stated that if Arena won the elections, the United States would cut off aid.

“That is,” said *Diario*, “that no importance would be granted to the majority will of the people, which these sectors of this great country say they are so anxious to defend.”

## ‘Leveling the field’ for the FMLN

One promise that the FMLN kept faithfully, was its pledge to resume its military offensive immediately after the elections. FMLN anti-aircraft weapons shot down a military helicopter less than 48 hours after the polls closed; two days later, they blew up six major power lines in the country, and sabotaged power stations, cutting off 51% of the nation’s electrical supply for more than a day.

This has not affected the foreign FMLN fan club in the least. Instead, the U.S. media chose to feature declarations by Joaquín Villalobos, one of the FMLN’s nastiest com-

manders, that the FMLN has renounced Marxism, and wants to achieve its goals as an unarmed political movement. According to a March 7 *New York Times* report, Villalobos now says that capitalist countries such as Germany, Japan, or Costa Rica are the new models for the FMLN, because they are “closely tied to the United States economy,” and, in the case of Costa Rica, have no army. He reiterated the FMLN’s demand that the military not be simply reformed, but “disbanded.”

## Prodigal terrorists

These are the words of “a man whose movement has finally seen the light,” CIA stringer Georgie Anne Geyer wrote in a nationally syndicated column published on March 15 in the *Washington Times*. “These public confessions of inner transformation” must be taken seriously, and the “vicious old rightists in El Salvador” cannot be allowed to convince the United States otherwise, she wrote.

Indeed, from the standpoint of the FMLN, why not negotiate? FMLN spokesmen say “they will sign a peace deal if territories under their control (some 20% of the country) be recognized during a transitional disarmament period when constitutional and judicial reforms aimed at leveling the field for their eventual participation in future elections are to be negotiated,” the *Financial Times* reported March 19. Until the elections, the Army and the government had refused to hand over territory, the *Financial Times* noted, but now “foreign pressure” may change this.

The United Nations, which has been running the “peace” negotiations between the government and the FMLN for the past year, is moving to set up shop permanently in El Salvador to oversee the power-sharing deal. U.N. Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuellar is preparing to dispatch a mission to El Salvador immediately, to finalize plans for a “U.N. presence” in El Salvador, according to the *Washington Times*. Among its plans, according to secret documents leaked to the press, is to help form a “commission of notables” set up under U.N. sponsorship, that should name, one by one, the officer corps of the Salvadoran Army.

Western intervention into El Salvador’s war on behalf of the FMLN has given new life to narco-terrorist armies across the Americas, a point noted unhappily by Enrique Santos Calderón in a column in Colombia’s *El Tiempo* newspaper on March 10. The Communist Party-controlled Simón Bolívar Guerrilla Coordination Front in Colombia has adopted the “Salvadoran model,” and as FMLN documents captured by the Salvadoran Army make plain, the FMLN views “dialogue” as a necessary instrument of its plans to seize power, he wrote. Santos Calderón quoted from the documents: Negotiations are needed “to isolate the regime and change the correlation of forces in favor of the armed struggle. . . . The process of dialogue allows us to gain support and discredit the regime internationally. . . . We must keep up the dialogue to keep the enemy tied to the negotiating table.”