

the persons of Archbishop Arturo Y Rivera, Monsignor Rivera Y Damas and Monsignor Rosa Chavez, to serve as interlocutors with the FMLN. The church, in this respect, was ideal. As Pelle observes, for years in El Salvador the church had been a staunch defender of human rights, ceaselessly making proposals aimed at rallying the country around uniformly acceptable national and moral principles. As a result, the church maintained permanent and active contact with the opposing factions in El Salvador.³⁵

The church agreed to contact the FMLN, who, upon being informed of the UNICEF plan, responded, "We cannot in any way be in disagreement. The vaccination is of great importance for our people."³⁶ Negotiations proceeded in the following manner: The Ministry of Health made proposals to the UNICEF representatives as to which areas of the country it would cover. These proposals were taken by UNICEF to Monsignor Rivera Y Damas or Monsignor Rosa Chavez, who, in turn, presented them to the guerrillas. The guerrillas would modify the proposals and return them to the government through the same channels whence they came. In this way, the government was able to maintain the fiction that they were not negotiating with the rebels.³⁷

The end result of this non-negotiation was a non-ceasefire: an unsigned agreement in which each group agreed not to promote armed activities on the days of the immunization campaign if the other would do the same.³⁸ Great care was taken by UNICEF not to refer to the agreement as a truce or ceasefire but as a period or day of tranquillity.³⁹ An idea of how tentative the arrangement was, can be gathered by the fact

³⁵ Yves Pelle, *El Salvador Immunization Campaign February-April 1985. Achieving Success in an Adverse Environment*, (unpublished paper) July 1985, p. 16.

³⁶ UNICEF Information, *Press Release*, PR 7/85, 18 April 1985.

³⁷ Eisner interview, *supra* note 30.

³⁸ Hernandez, Jaramillo and Kayayan, *supra* note 32, p. 14.

³⁹ See: UNICEF Interoffice Memorandum from James R. Himes, Chief, Americas Section, to Mr. James P. Grant, Executive Director, UNICEF. Subject: El Salvador Immunization Campaign, File No. NY/Gen. 25/85, 30 January 1985.