

In El Salvador, a full amnesty has been granted for political prisoners. Two prominent leaders of the political wing of the guerrilla movement have already taken advantage of this opening to return to that country's legitimate political process. The Salvadoran government has also formed a National Reconciliation Commission and was quick to re-open talks with the guerrilla opposition. As well, El Salvador accepted the repatriation of some 4,300 Salvadoran refugees from camps inside Honduras. However, the violence continues in that country, and the government-guerrilla dialogue was suspended after the assassination of Herbert Anaya, the head of the non-governmental human rights commission. Unfortunately, neither side seems prepared to take the serious initiative needed to resume the dialogue.

Honduras, is a country which does not have an internal conflict, but is plagued with the problems of the contra presence in the south as well as the influx of enormous numbers of refugees from both Nicaragua and El Salvador. The government has formed a National Reconciliation Commission to help deal with these problems. On the refugee side, the government cooperated fully with the UNHCR in the recent repatriation of the Salvadoran refugees from Honduran camps. They have also asked the contras to leave Honduran soil, though to date there has been no measurable movement. I was advised in Honduras that informal discussions may begin soon, between Honduras and Nicaragua, to move toward concrete compliance with the Esquipulas agreement respecting non-use of territory. I remind the House that the notion of simultaneity, so central to this accord, means that implementation of the basic provisions of the accord must occur in lock-step: the contras must be removed from Honduras at the same time as a ceasefire is negotiated between the Nicaraguan government and the contras. Neither objective has yet been reached and each relies on the other.