

fifty cents worth of vaccine. Duarte was also told that the benefits of a concerted immunization program could be seen quickly, within the length of one presidential term. This last bit of information may well have persuaded Duarte to accept the idea. However he agreed not to use the proposed vaccination campaign for partisan politics.<sup>31</sup>

UNICEF stipulated that any immunization campaign must include all the children of El Salvador and therefore must be extended to all the conflict zones. Duarte objected that it was too dangerous to enter guerrilla-controlled territory. It was in response to this objection that Grant floated the idea of a temporary ceasefire.

In October 1984, an evaluation team, consisting of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), UNICEF and the Ministry of Health in El Salvador, carried out a feasibility study of the immunization project. The three year "Plan of Action" that resulted, proposed three national immunization days a year, beginning in 1985, on 3 February, 3 March and 23 April.<sup>32</sup>

The next step was for the government of El Salvador to negotiate a ceasefire with the guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). This was not a straightforward affair. As the Minister of Health of El Salvador explained, "in no way were either Duarte or himself going to deal with Guerrilla groups on this matter."<sup>33</sup> The problem was that the government, and particularly the military, felt that to negotiate with the guerrillas for a ceasefire, even a temporary one for humanitarian purposes, would imply that the government formally recognized the FMLN, something the government steadfastly refused to do.<sup>34</sup> The solution was to solicit the services of the Roman Catholic church, in

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<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> Rolando Hernandez, Hernan Jaramillo and Agop Kayayan, *El Salvador National Immunization Campaign. Analysis of a Process*, (unpublished paper) 30 September 1985.

<sup>33</sup> Interoffice Memorandum from Hernan Jaramillo, UNICEF Programme Officer, to Agop Kayayan, UNICEF Area Representative, Guatemala, 12 December 1984.

<sup>34</sup> Donald C. Drake, "The Day the War Stood Still," *The Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine*, 28 June 1987, p. 20.