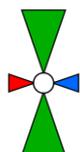


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<95/c>	<p>36421-22; 36681; see also below]. The Costa del Sol agreement emerged from a meeting of the Central American heads of state in El Salvador on Feb. 13-14, 1989 [see p. 36460], in an effort to give fresh impetus to the Arias peace plan [see above]. Nicaragua agreed to bring forward its general election, to release political prisoners and to make further concessions on internal reform, in return for an undertaking by the heads of state to elaborate within 90 days (i.e. by May 15) a plan for the demobilization, voluntary repatriation or relocation of contras and their families from camps in southern Honduras. A plan drawn up to this end by Foreign Ministers at a meeting on May 5 in Guatemala City was later embodied in the Tela agreement [see below]. Meanwhile, however, the peace process received a further setback with the renewed approval by the US Congress of humanitarian aid to the contras at the end of March 1989. The Tela agreement was signed at a meeting of Central American heads of state in Tela, Honduras, on Aug. 5-7, 1989 [see p. 36847]. It covered the demobilization, repatriation or relocation of the contras over a 90-day period beginning on Sept. 8 (i.e. by Dec. 5). It also called on the guerrillas in El Salvador to cease hostilities and to begin peace talks. Some controversy arose over whether the adjective “voluntary” in the Spanish text of the agreement (desmovilización y repatriación voluntaria) applied to the contras’ demobilization or to their repatriation. The Mexico City agreement emerged from talks on Sept. 13-15, 1989, between the Salvadorean government and the main guerrilla organization in El Salvador, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (Frente Farabundo Martí de Liberación Nacional - FMLN) [see p. 36890], in response to an appeal made in the Tela agreement [see below], and allowed for monthly talks to take place between the two sides. Nicaragua unilaterally declared an end to the 19-month ceasefire on Nov. 1, 1989, on the grounds that contras were renewing their attacks inside Nicaragua, and that insufficient efforts were being made to disband them. Fighting resumed on the following day [see pp. 36972; 37038]. A UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) was established following a UN Security Council vote on Nov. 1, 1989 [see p. 37038], to monitor compliance with the Tela agreement [see above] and to patrol borders. Progress on regional parliament The establishment of a proposed Central American parliament as envisaged in the Arias peace plan [see pp. 35440-42] was hindered by Costa Rica’s failure to ratify the treaty of adherence</p> <p>on the grounds that it would compromise the country’s sovereignty. In a declaration signed in Cuenca (Spain) on April 3, 1989, political, parliamentary and other representatives from Europe and Central America (including the Vice-Presidents of Honduras and El Salvador, but not Costa Rica), stressed that Central American integration was essential economically, socially and politically for peace and development in the region, and that the formation of a regional parliament was part of this process. Conference on refugees The first International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) was held in Guatemala City on May 29-31, 1989, under the auspices of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). A declaration and a three-year concerted plan of action were adopted to</p>
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assist nearly 2,000,000 Central Americans affected in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Belize. These were defined as 146,400 refugees, 893,000 undocumented Central American immigrants, 872,000 displaced persons and 61,500 repatriated citizens. Overall the 32 projects in the plan were expected to cost \$400,000,000, the financing to be provided by Western and Central American governments, humanitarian organizations and aid agencies.

AMERICAS - CARIBBEAN EL SALVADOR BASIC DATA Area: 21,393 sq km (incl. inland water). Population: 5,124,931 (1989). Capital: San Salvador. Language: Spanish. Religion: Christianity (80% Roman Catholic). Av. life expectancy: 67 yrs (women), 58 yrs (men) (1989). Armed forces: 56,000 (incl. 12,500 civil defence force) (1989). GNP per capita: US\$860 (1987). Currency: Salvadorean colón (US\$1.00=6.3848 colones as at Feb. 5, 1990). The Republic of El Salvador was ruled by Spain until 1821 and gained separate independence in 1839, since which time the country's history has been one of frequent coups and political violence. Under the Constitution of December 1983 executive power is held by the President, who is directly elected for a five-year term, while legislative power is vested in the unicameral Legislative Assembly (which replaced the National Constituent Assembly in March 1985) with 60 members similarly elected for a three-year term. The President is assisted by a Vice-President and a Council of Ministers. Presidential elections held on March 19, 1989 [see p. 36520], were won by Alfredo Cristiani Burkard of the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (Alianza Republicana Nacionalista - Arena). Cristiani took over as President from José Napoleón Duarte of the Christian Democratic Party (Partido Demócrata Cristiano - PDC) on June 1 [see pp. 36731-32]. In elections to the Legislative Assembly held on March 20, 1988, Arena had won 30 seats