Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Resolution 751 (1981)[1]
Final version

Refugees from El Salvador

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Convinced that the present political situation in El Salvador finds its deep roots in the last decade of the history of this country when an authoritative regime, supported by the army, exerted a very severe repression in order to safeguard the privileges of certain social classes ;

2. Recalling that the military *coup d'etat* of 15 October 1979 overthrew General Romero's regime, and brought to power a government consisting of two military men and three civilians originally representing the opposition parties of the centre, which proclaimed an amnesty for political prisoners, the re-establishment of human rights and a land reform ;

3. Noting that this government has not implemented this programme, in particular because of the armed opposition of the extremist factions which saw in the announced reforms a danger to their existence, and that the presence of the military in the government has grown stronger ;

4. Noting that the military junta has hardened its position, and has launched extensive repression which affects numerous civilians unconnected with the fighting ;

5. Noting that the fight between these factions has led to a radicalisation of the positions and an escalation of violence ;

6. Concerned at the escalation of the external technical and military support provided both by the new American administration to the junta and by Cuba to the guerillas ;

7. Appalled by the dramatic situation of the population suffering from violent and ruthless confrontation in which violence, disappearances and murders follow one another, affecting not only the combatants, but also all those who, one way or another, are caught up in events which do not concern them ;

8. Expressing its satisfaction at the action led by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross, helped by various other humanitarian organisations, in favour of the population of El Salvador, including refugees who asked for asylum in the neighbouring countries ;

9. Concerned about the financial problems connected with assistance for this population,

10. Invites the governments of the member states :

i. to support the action of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the other humanitarian organisations in favour of the population of El Salvador ;

ii. to address an appeal to the governments of the countries neighbouring El Salvador to accept refugees from El Salvador, and facilitate and support the action of the above-mentioned humanitarian organisations ;

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1. *Assembly debate* on 15 May 1981 (7th Sitting) (see Doc. 4698, report of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 15 May 1981 (7th Sitting).

iii. to launch an appeal :

a. for the cessation of all intervention and interference in the internal affairs of the Salvadoran people ;

b. to the parties involved, to the government and to the opposition grouped in the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR), that they should enter into a constructive dialogue which would make possible an agreement to end the destructive war whose victim is the Salvadoran people and afford to the latter a prospect of living in peace, freedom and justice

iv. to seek to ensure, by appropriate means, that both the government of El Salvador and all the political forces of the country :

a. respect human rights, including the right to leave the country for those who wish to do so ;

b. facilitate the activities of the Red Cross and the persons under its protection.