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Salvador rebels raid capital again

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SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — Groups of guerrillas raided two working class suburbs of San Salvador yesterday for the second day in a row, trapping 1000 students in two public schools in cross fire with army troops.

The government rushed forces into the northern suburbs of Ciudad Delgada and Cuscatancingo to battle the guerrillas, the army radio said.

In Ciudad Delgada, two public schools shut their doors when fighting between soldiers and rebels broke out nearby, trapping the students.

Fighting also broke out in the nearby town of Cuscatancingo, where rebels mounted one of their strongest attacks in 12 months Monday.

The Salvadoran Red Cross said, "Our units are trying to take out the students trapped in that zone."

Guerrillas briefly overran both towns, working class suburbs of the capital, on Monday.

In other fighting, guerrillas launched a strong attack on the army garrison at Jutiapa, 41 miles northeast of the capital in Cabanas province, officials said.

At least two helicopters were called to the scene, one to evacuate an undetermined number of wounded and at least one dead soldier and the other to strafe suspected rebel positions, army radio communication said.

Salvadoran Catholic Church of-

ficials reported that thousands of peasants have been fleeing northern Morazan province for the past week out of fear they will be trapped in "major fighting" between guerrillas and army troops.

In another development, US Ambassador Deane R. Hinton said he tried to get the extreme left to participate in upcoming elections but they refused "because I think they know damn well they would not get many votes."

"We thought we could end the war peacefully," Hinton said in a news conference. "But a small group of people with guns and bombs do not want it to end peacefully."

Citing intelligence reports, Hinton also warned the elections will not end the civil war. "The violence is bad and it will get worse. There will be a lot of bang-bang and a lot of boom-boom," he said.

Hinton said the March 28 elections for a constituent assembly will be "the first honest elections (in El Salvador) in 50 years, elections scrutinized by a host of international observers and by you, the ever vigilant media."

The ambassador said that he made personal contact last year with leftist leaders "through third parties" to convince the left to enter candidates in the elections.

He also said a similar attempt by acting Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas ended in failure a year ago.