

Mr. Speaker, the Salvadoran presidential elections will be held on March 15. If the FMLN wins the election, it would be devastating for the people of El Salvador as well as for the relationship between our two countries.

FMLN party leadership is expected to follow the anti-U.S. agenda of Venezuela's radical president, Hugo Chavez, and join Cuba in a pro-Chavez, pro-Cuba, pro-Iran axis.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, the FMLN is a pro-terrorist party with direct ties to sponsors of terror. After the 9/11 attacks, they marched in their capital city to celebrate the attack by al Qaeda, and they burned the American flag. The leader of that march was Salvador Sanchez Ceren, who is now the FMLN's candidate for vice president.

Mr. Speaker, should the pro-terrorist FMLN party replace the current government in El Salvador, the United States, in the interest of national security, would be required to re-evaluate our policy toward El Salvador, including cash remittance and immigration policies, to compensate for the fact there will no longer be a reliable counterpart in the Salvadoran government.

It is my hope that the El Salvadoran people continue the history of a positive relationship between our two countries and ensure that they elect pro-freedom, pro-peace, life-loving officials to their government.