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# Duarte reorganizing police in El Salvador

EL PARAISO, El Salvador (AP) — President Jose Napoleon Duarte has ordered the reorganization of the country's three principal police forces, which human rights activists say are linked to rightist death squads.

President Duarte told a group of army officers during a visit Monday to a military base in El Paraiso that the reorganization of the National Police, the National Guard and the Treasury Police would help reduce human rights abuses in the war against leftist rebels.

The three forces, 12,000 men, have overlapping responsibilities and tasks with no clearly defined jurisdictions, and their commanders often are criticized for evading responsibility for abuses by shifting the blame on each other.

Mr. Duarte gave no details of the reorganization other than to say the National Police would be turned into an urban force, the National Guard into a rural force and the Treasury Police combined with the tiny Customs Guard and renamed the National Patrimonial Police.

The National Guard and National Police will divide functions that have been shared by all three units, from handing out parking tickets to helping the 33,000-member military fight the war.

A moderate Christian Democrat, Mr. Duarte earlier took action against the Treasury Police, the most notorious of the three. A few months ago, he disbanded its 100-member intelligence unit, which has been accused of numer-

ous kidnappings, murders and extortions.

Col. Nicolas Carranza was removed as Treasury Police director by the military as a gesture to the president a few weeks before Mr. Duarte was inaugurated June 1 for a five-year term.

Military sources said Col. Carranza was fired primarily because of U.S. pressure after published reports accused him of having links to right-wing death squads and receiving money from the CIA. He has denied both allegations.

On Monday, Mr. Duarte named the colonel defense attache at the Salvadoran Embassy in Spain to get him out of the country, according to government sources.

Mr. Duarte, the first civilian president elected in El Salvador in more than 40 years, has promised to curb human rights abuses. Human rights observers blame a majority of the 46,000 civilian deaths since the war began five years ago on the death squads.

They say the number of squad deaths has diminished sharply since then, but they report an increase in battlefield civilian deaths because of increased army operations against the leftist guerrillas.

In his talk with 4th Infantry Brigade army officers in El Paraiso, President Duarte said the police reorganization would bring "order in the country." He urged the officers to "fight abuses of authority in order to gain the support of the people."

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