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# U.S. aiding search for Duarte's kin

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SAN SALVADOR — The United States is giving technical help to the government of El Salvador in its search for the kidnapers of President Jose Napoleon Duarte's daughter, Ines Guadalupe Duarte Duran, according to a U.S. Embassy official.

The official described the help that the United States is providing as "technical, intelligence, ballistics and forensic assistance," but he declined to be more specific. However, he said the help being given in the kidnapping case is the same kind of help the United States provided in the search for rebel gunmen who killed four U.S. Marines last June in a San Salvador restaurant.

Meanwhile, the Salvadoran government lifted slightly the lid it has clamped on news outlets concerning

developments in the kidnapping case.

The newspapers here reported accounts of a news conference held Monday by Minister of Culture and Communications Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes in which Mr. Rey Prendes said the government is convinced Mrs. Duarte Duran was kidnapped by members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

The minister also confirmed that there have been some contacts between the government and the kidnapers.

Monday night, the Legislative Assembly voted to grant amnesty to a Costa Rican terrorist whose name is said to be on the list of prisoners whose release has been demanded by the kidnapers.

Julio Romero Talavera has served four years of a 25-year sentence imposed for flying in arms for the Salvadoran rebels. He was captured

after his plane crashed.

The vote on Mr. Romero's amnesty originally was scheduled for next week but was moved up for reasons that conservative deputies said were not fully explained. But government officials, including Mr. Rey Prendes, denied the vote was linked to the kidnapping.

Nevertheless, the timing and the circumstances of the vote have raised obvious speculation here that a deal may be being worked out behind the scenes.

The Spanish-language newspaper *Diario de las Americas*, published in Miami, over the weekend published a report that the president's daughter had been taken by her kidnapers to Nicaragua, then reported a denial by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

In the course of his denial, Mr. Ortega reportedly revealed that the Sandinista government had been contacted by the government of El Salvador about the kidnapping and had agreed to cooperate. But he did not specify the nature of that cooperation. Mr. Rey Prendes told reporters in El Salvador he does not know if Mrs. Duarte Duran is in Nicaragua.