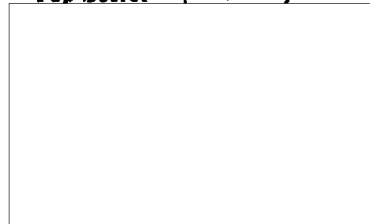


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CPAS NID 91-225JX



Director of Central Intelligence

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Thursday, 26 September 1991



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CPAS NID 91-225JX

26 September 1991

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EL SALVADOR: Human Rights Case Goes to Trial

The trial of four officers, including a colonel, and five soldiers accused of murdering six Jesuit priests and two civilians in 1989 is set to open this week. [redacted] judicial officials are taking unusually tight security precautions to protect the jury's anonymity, in the hope of curtailing intimidation and bribes. Evidence against the defendants reportedly is strong. [redacted]

Comment: This is the first time El Salvador has brought a senior officer to trial for human rights abuses. The government will portray the trial as proof that the judicial system functions and that military personnel are not immune from prosecution. Nonetheless, government critics, including the guerrillas, probably will maintain that the judicial inquiry failed to indict the senior officers who ordered the killings. Moreover, proceedings could be delayed if some of the jurors fail to appear for duty, as has happened in other high-profile cases. [redacted]

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26 September 1991

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