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Human Rights Developments

Chilean diplomats are still engaged in last minute remonstrations to prevent the passage of an anti-Chilean human rights resolution by the UN. In Santiago, meanwhile, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] President Pinochet offered to accept a visit by two members of the ad hoc working group on Chile (Allana Group) on the basis of "clearly established ground rules." This proposal was accepted by the group, which then came up with a "truly incredible report." Accordingly, Chile's attitude toward the group is being reexamined.

The Panamanian Government announced on 3 December that laws limiting the right of assembly in major cities and providing for summary administrative trials of persons accused of crimes of terror have been abrogated. These changes were promised by General Torrijos to seven visiting US Senators in November. Torrijos [REDACTED] is now discussing abrogation of the law that limits press freedom.

El Salvadorean President Romero told a military graduating class on 1 December that they had the responsibility of preserving peace within the country. He emphasized that the government would not deprive any citizen of his rights, but said that these rights would be placed in the proper perspective, clearly establishing the citizen's obligations. Totalitarian forces backing the terrorist organizations, he said, had misinterpreted the good will of his government.

While the news media played up the law and order pronouncements of the President's speech, Romero did not call for repressive action by the military. He did warn subversive groups, however, and reassured the military and other conservatives that the government has every intention of maintaining law and order. [REDACTED]

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