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Salvadoran Murder Suspects Freed

Two Salvadorans implicated in the 3 January 1981 murders of Michael Hammer and Mark Pearlman, U.S. land reform specialists, have been released from custody. (See the issues of 7 January, 3 and 24 June, and 2 September 1981.) Ricardo Sol Meza was released in El Salvador because of lack of evidence. Hans Christ, Sol Meza's brother-in-law, was released on bond from a Miami jail on 26 September. Christ, who was arrested on 15 April, was ordered to stay away from airports and railroad stations and to telephone his attorney three times a week while extradition hearings continue.

In a possibly related incident of intimidation involving people connected with the case, an unknown assailant tried to kill the son of El Salvador's Ambassador to the United States. The attempted assassination occurred two days after the publication in El Salvador of a letter from the Ambassador to Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig outlining new evidence in the murders.

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