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Human Rights Developments

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An Inter-American Human Rights Commission group has concluded its investigation of human rights conditions in El Salvador. The group will now prepare an outline report to be submitted to the whole commission. The final document will then be sent to the Government of El Salvador for consideration and comment. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the group was well received in the country and allowed to conduct a thorough investigation. [REDACTED] the commission's findings will be unpalatable to the government. Discreet inquiries [REDACTED] indicate that the commission has turned up a significant amount of adverse data that undoubtedly will be stressed in the final report.

The Chilean Government reportedly has improved the living conditions of the 12 Christian Democratic party leaders banished to the north on 14 January. Relatives of the group have asked the Ministry of the Interior to bring the 12 before the court on specific charges so that it can be determined if, in fact, a law has been broken. [REDACTED] the *habeas corpus* petition will be denied, however, because judicial power in the past has not challenged the state of siege in such cases.

Meanwhile, some West European members of the United Nations Human Rights Commission have seized on the plight of the banished politicians. While these members recognize that the Chileans have made some progress in human rights practices, they believe that the focus of future human rights resolutions on Chile should be changed from direct abuse to the problem of repressive rule. They are pressing for a resolution that will call for an end of the state of siege, restoration of freedom of the press, and liberation of all political prisoners.

[REDACTED] Argentina [REDACTED] has had little success in clarifying the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of two French nuns and 11 other Argentine citizens in early December. There is general

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agreement that the abductions were carried out by some arm of the security forces, but the specific group and level of responsibility is unclear. The terrorist note claiming responsibility has generally been discounted, and the government's failure to follow up on the publicity indicates that it is not seriously convinced that terrorists were involved. [REDACTED]

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