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~~Top Secret~~



CIACPAS --- NID 90-1965X ---



Director of Central Intelligence

# NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Wednesday, 22 August 1990



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CPAS NID 90-1965X

22 August 1990

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[Redacted]

[Large Redacted Area]

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**EL SALVADOR: Officers Want Jesuit Murders Solved**

Many Salvadoran officers reportedly are dissatisfied with the way their leaders have handled the investigation of the Jesuit murders, [Redacted] A senior officer reportedly has said an increasing number believe the High Command ordered the killings. Colonel Benavides, the most senior officer charged so far, reportedly is ready to say he acted on orders from armed forces Chief of Staff Ponce that the priests be killed. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Comment:** No evidence has emerged directly implicating the High Command in the killings, but many Salvadoran officers apparently are concerned that a high-level coverup is damaging the armed forces and jeopardizing US aid. Many junior and senior officers may also be trying to link Ponce to the murders to head off his long-delayed appointment as minister of defense and to break the dominance of the Tandon. At a minimum, Ponce is acquiescing in the military's stonewalling on the civilian investigation of the case, including destruction and concealment of evidence. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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