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Jesuit-run University In San Salvador Bombed

by Deborah Tyroler

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On April 28, several dynamite charges exploded on the campus of the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA), resulting in extensive material damage to a printing shop and editorial office and campus buildings. UCA rector, Jesuit priest Ignacio Ellacuria, told reporters April 29 that rightist groups were responsible. The explosions occurred near one of the entrance gates of the campus, located at the intersection of Albert Einstein Avenue and a highway used to travel south from San Salvador. No casualties were reported. According to Ellacuria, the attack was the result of a defamation and propaganda campaign headed by Col. Orlando Zepeda Vega, commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade. The rector said that in the past few days Zepeda and other military officers publicly accused UCA of harboring persons linked to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). Zepeda and company also asserted that the assassination of Attorney General Roberto Alvarado was planned on the university campus. [Ed.: A rightist death squad has claimed responsibility for the killing,] Ellacuria said he found it odd that the explosion occurred 100 meters from an army observation post. On April 29, spokespersons for the University of El Salvador said UES had submitted a legal complaint against the armed forces chiefs of staff. The complaint said students had suffered continual mistreatment in the past several weeks at the hands of soldiers. UES is under military surveillance, as troops maintain a cordon around the campus. (Basic data from Notimex, 04/29/89)

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