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Honduras: Catholic Church Accuses U.S. Of Launching Religious Invasion

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On May 24, secretary of the Honduran Bishops Conference, Msgr. Luis Santos, accused the US of launching a religious invasion of Honduras through the spread of missionaries preaching anti-Catholicism and anti-communism. According to the bishop, the penetration of these sects, mainly Protestant, is "an aggression against our rights as a sovereign and independent republic, because consciously or unconsciously they are spokesmen for a conquest ideology and Yankee neocolonialism." Santos, Bishop of Copan, claimed that the CIA has contributed millions of dollars to religious sects through agents who channel the money to preachers spreading their messages for "ideological and political" motives. The bishop also accused the Honduran military of aiding and abetting the sects since the 1970s. Among other things, he noted the imprisonment of nine Roman Catholic teachers six years ago after they were accused of subversion by Protestant missionaries. The domination and dependency of Honduras, said Santos, are evidenced in the growing presence of the US military, and in the occupation of national territory by the Nicaraguan contras. He added, "Tomorrow, when they take our religion, what will be left (that is Honduran)?" (Basic data from AFP, Notimex, 05/24/89)

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