

11-14-1990

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Recommended Citation

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Official Spanish Delegations Apply Pressure On Salvadoran Government To Accelerate Jesuit Murder Investigation

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, November 14, 1990

On Nov. 8, Spanish news service EFE cited unidentified diplomatic sources as saying that two official Spanish delegations plan an investigation of the Jesuit murder case. One of the delegations, consisting of representatives of all parties represented in the Spanish parliament, was scheduled to arrive in San Salvador on Nov. 13. The politicians are to join forces with the second delegation, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Inocencio Arias, and comprised of 34 relatives of the murdered priests, among others. On Nov. 7, Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez told Spanish deputies that if the Jesuit murder case is not cleared up, and all forms of related violence eliminated, the government will not limit itself to issuing a formal protest note. On three separate occasions, Madrid has called on San Salvador to take necessary action toward the prosecution of persons responsible for the Nov. 16, 1989 murders of six priests and two women. Five of the six priests were of Spanish origin, including Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the Central American University (UCA). (Basic data from EFE, 11/08/90; Notimex, 11/09/90)

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