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## **El Salvador: Notes On Anniversary Events Commemorating Nov. 16, 1989, Massacre Of Jesuit Priests**

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Nov. 16: Somber remembrances, including an outdoor mass concelebrated by 20 bishops, were held in San Salvador on the first anniversary of the military massacre of six Jesuit priests and two women employees at the Central American University. The mass and most other activities took place at the university, where the victims were roused from their sleep and killed during a military occupation. "They were killed by the same hatred that assassinated Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero [10 years ago]," said the Jesuits' Central American provincial, Jose Maria Tojeira. He spoke to more than 400 agricultural workers and foreign visitors. "These martyrs," Tojeira said, "were the seed of one of the most interesting syntheses between the Gospel and new models of indigenous organization...Our brothers sought through their university work to contribute to the construction of a new society in which the rights of the poorest would be guaranteed...Their vocation for the poor earned them the hatred of those who prefer to worship the idol of riches instead of beginning the sometimes painful way of hearing the cry of the poor." A photo exhibit depicting the bloody assassination attracted an overflow crowd to a center named after Archbishop Oscar Romero. The photos showed victims' murdered bodies, bullet-riddled books and burned Bibles, as well as items which belonged to the murdered priests. The tombs of the murdered Jesuits, located in the chapel at the University, are embossed with the insignia of Archbishop Romero. A nearby mural showed a personification of death, dressed in military olive green, keeping vigilance over the tombs. Among possessions of the Jesuits displayed in a glass case are medals and other decorations awarded them by universities around the world for distinguished service in the cause of justice. A rose garden and a marker with the victims' names now stand where the bodies were found at the University. Leaders of a Salvadoran labor central presented a Spanish parliamentary delegation with documents to support a contention that the Salvadoran military high command ordered the massacre. The leadership of National Salvadoran Workers Unity (UNTS) met with the lawmakers, who attended commemorative services. UNTS leader Julio Cesar Portillo told the press that information obtained by union members shows that "the military high command is the direct intellectual author of this massacre. Also, [President Alfredo] Cristiani has moral and political responsibility because he endorsed the crime." "This was not just an isolated event," Portillo said, "but one planned as part of a policy of government annihilation of the opposition in all sectors of society." Nov. 17: The Agence France Presse published a report on activities held in San Jose, Costa Rica, in memory of the slain Salvadoran Jesuits. At the University of Costa Rica, religious services were held at the same hour as those which took place at the location of the assassination in El Salvador. Hundreds of religious and delegates from several nations attended the San Jose observance. Costa Rica's National Council on Peace and Solidarity published an ad in Costa Rican newspapers to denounce the continued immunity from prosecution and sanctions of those who killed the Jesuits. Declaring that the killers are well known, the ad said, "So long as this impunity is maintained, El Salvador's political and military institutions will remain in question and in crisis." The statement noted the fact that the killer of Archbishop Romero has not been brought to justice. The ad also made reference to assassinated labor leaders and 70,000 people killed during 10 years

of civil war. "And who has delivered justice [in these cases]?" the council asked. Nov. 18: Four US bishops visiting El Salvador issued a call for a total cutoff of US aid to the Salvadoran military. The prelates were Archbishop Rembert Weakland of Milwaukee, Wisc., Bishop Walter Sullivan of Richmond, Va., Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, NM, and Auxiliary Bishop Carlos Sevilla of San Francisco. "We are conscious of the fact that the type of aid given by our government has not benefitted the people of El Salvador," Sullivan said. According to Ramirez, "So long as there are arms, they will be used. If the influx of weapons ends, the possibility of peace would greatly improve not only in El Salvador but in all of Central America." Referring to the slaying of the Jesuits a year ago, Weakland said that based on the length of time the investigation of the case has dragged on, all of the guilty parties should have been found. (Basic data from Notimex, 11/16/90; AFP, 11/16/90, 11/17/90; ACAN-EFE, 11/18/90)

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