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# COURIER-JOURNAL

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## U.S. Prelate Raps Salvadorean Aid

San Salvador, El Salvador (RNS) — Disregarding opposition here and at home, the U.S. government said it was lifting the ban on military aid to El Salvador — imposed after the still unsolved murders Dec. 2 of four American women missionaries.

The move, widely resisted both by lay and religious groups and individuals, drew an immediate expression of "profound disappointment and disagreement" in Minneapolis from Archbishop John R. Roach, the elected head of the U.S. Catholic hierarchy.

In defense of the action, Salvadoran officials and U.S. diplomats here cited what they said was increased aid to leftist Salvadoran guerrillas from Nicaragua.

The U.S. State Department said the decision to resume the \$5 million military aid program was also based on progress made in El Salvador's investigation into the killings of three Catholic nuns and a Catholic lay woman missionary.

The aid program was suspended Dec. 5 following reports that Salvadoran security forces might have been responsible for their deaths.

"Our opposition to renewed military aid," Archbishop Roach said after the new announcement, "is based on the conviction that no real evidence exists that the government of El Salvador had brought security forces under control."

The restoration of military

assistance, he said, would help to escalate violence by the security forces and associate the U.S. with "acts of oppression which can only alienate a majority of the people of El Salvador."

Religious, lay and labor leaders at a protest demonstration four days earlier in Washington had demanded all aid, economic and military, withheld permanently from the current Salvadoran regime.

And in El Salvador itself, 10 major Roman Catholic groups had jointly declared that the Salvadoran people were engaged in a "just struggle under the right of insurrection."

In El Salvador, Catholic organizations including the Conference of Religious Men and Women and the San Salvador Archdiocesan Pastoral Council declared in their joint statement that the Salvadoran people had prepared for "an insurrection as the last means to obtain the justice and peace that they have so long desired and have so often been denied."

Challenging the legitimacy of the Salvadoran junta, the statement said: "The present government in El Salvador has the support only of members of the oligarchy (wealthy landowners), of the security forces, some of the military, and the U.S. government."

The statement maintained that the Salvadoran people had a God-given right to rebel against the current regime: "If the common good does not exist in El Salvador, if peaceful routes have been

constantly closed off, then we are in the situation in which the Catholic Church admits the right of legitimate insurrection."

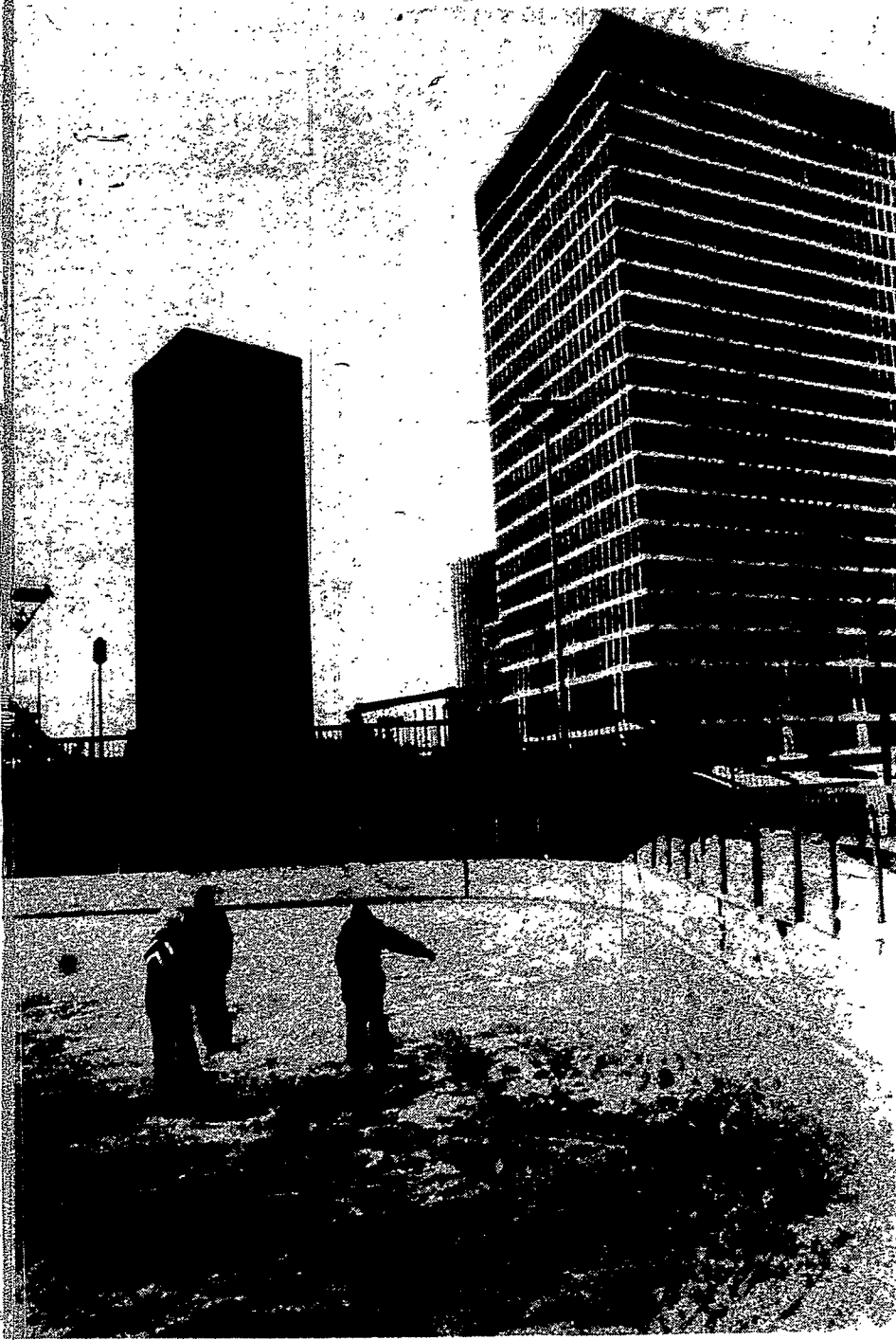
Meanwhile, in Mexico City, spokesmen for the Salvadoran opposition said that their forces had seized the initiative in the offensive to topple the government. But they also reiterated a willingness to negotiate a political settlement of the conflict, including with the U.S.

The spokesmen denounced the U.S. decision to resume military assistance to the Salvadoran junta and charged that Guatemala and Honduras armed forces were intervening in the conflict on the side of the Salvadoran army.

They strongly denied reports that they were receiving arms shipments from Cuba and Nicaragua.

U.S. Ambassador Robert E. White had said here that it was his "personal conclusion" that there has been a change in the amount and sophistication of weapons coming to the Salvadoran guerrillas. "I think they are coming from Nicaragua," he said.

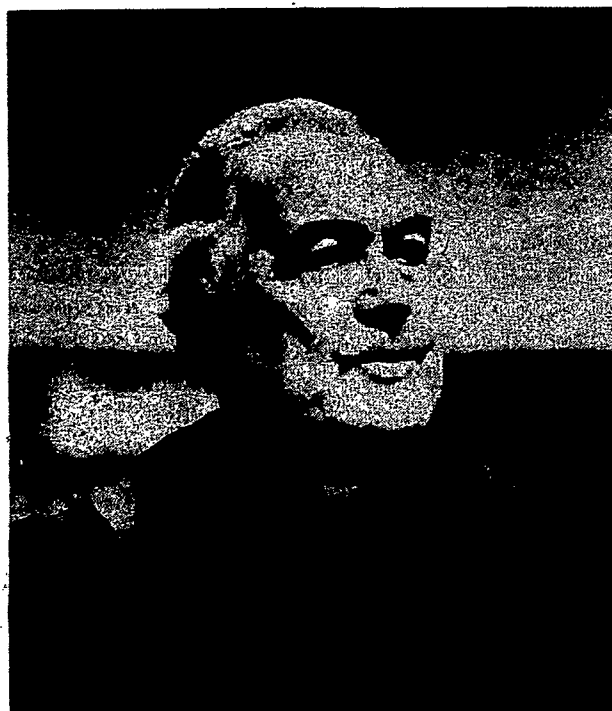
Denying this assertion, Salvador Samayoa, a former Education Minister who joined the guerrillas last year, said the junta had been unable to offer any evidence of Nicaraguan — or Cuban — involvement. "It just wants to justify U.S. intervention," he said.



(Nice View

Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Some of Rochester's skyscrapers provide a scenic view for skaters circling the ice rink at Manhattan Square Park. Record low temperatures hit the area recently but obviously failed to keep these brave three from getting some exercise.



FATHER HESBURGH

## Father Hesburgh: Immigration Law 'Ridiculous'

By John Dash

U.S. immigration and naturalization laws are "ridiculous," and "just not operable," in the face of current refugee problems around the globe, Father Theodore Hesburgh, CSC, said last week.

The president of the University of Notre Dame, and for nearly 30 years the star cleric on the stage of national polity, is about to deliver a specially commissioned report on U.S. immigration law.

That report, "almost

completely written," is difficult to characterize because of the complexity of the subject, he said. The commission, however, pursued its analysis by asking four questions: "how many immigrants; from where do they come; by what procedures do they enter; and what criteria do we use to allow entry."

He said that in light of the fact there are 320,000 people a year who can be considered refugees, the present laws are "a little ridiculous. The law is just not operable."

The report will also

recommend that "new preferences" be established for admitting refugees, he said, in obvious reference to difficulties Haitians have in obtaining refugee status in this country.

In addition, the commission will recommend establishing an international agreement on refugee admittance. Father Hesburgh noted that from Southeast Asia alone, the U.S. admits 60 percent of the refugees.

When the report is issued, the Holy Cross priest is looking forward to a vacation of sorts from

serving on executive commissions probing the effect of legislation on such problems as pornography, crime and civil rights.

"Since Eisenhower," he said last week while robing for the inauguration of Father Patrick O. Braden as president of St. John Fisher College, "I've set aside 30/40 days a year," for just such work.

This year, however, "I simply don't know anyone, haven't the contacts," with the Reagan administration to expect a place on such a commission.