

# Noriega surrenders to U.S. authorities

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — A 10-day diplomatic dilemma ended Jan. 3 when deposed Panamanian dictator General Manuel Noriega left his refuge in the Vatican's Panama City nunciature and surrendered voluntarily to United States authorities.

At the Vatican, a spokesman said Noriega's surrender was probably the best solution to what had become a diplomatic impasse. Noriega reached his decision freely and "without being pressured," after "deep reflection" on his situation, said spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls.

Noriega was arrested by U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency officials after he walked out of the nunciature Jan. 3. He was immediately flown to Miami and arraigned the

next day on a series of drug-related charges. A "not guilty" plea was entered for the former strongman, and lawyers said his trial would be delayed by months of legal preliminaries.

Navarro-Valls and U.S. officials credited the papal nuncio in Panama, Archbishop Jose Sebastian Laboa, with convincing Noriega to leave willingly and face justice in the United States.

Archbishop Laboa, a 66-year-old Spaniard, explained in an interview with Italian reporters Jan. 6 how he and others changed Noriega's view.

The archbishop said a Noriega adviser telephoned the nuncio on Christmas Eve — four days after the U.S. invaded Panama — saying that Noriega would unleash a guerrilla war in western Panama unless he was

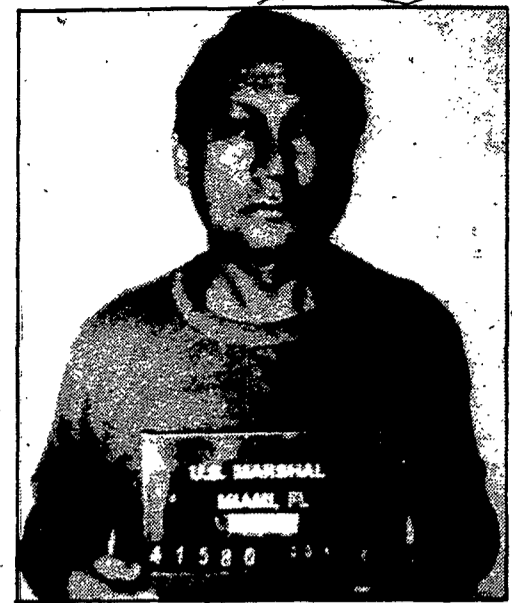
given refuge.

"I was given 15 minutes to decide. My first reaction was to contact the Holy See, but that was not possible. I took the terrible decision," Archbishop Laboa said. The Vatican later backed up the nuncio, saying his decision had in effect quelled the fighting in Panama, in which many soldiers and hundreds of civilians had died.

Archbishop Laboa said he informed General Marc Cisneros of the U.S. Army Southern Command in Panama City after Noriega had arrived.

"It left them speechless. For them it was a humiliation," he said.

The archbishop said Noriega thought at first he would obtain refuge in a third country such as Cuba or the Dominican Republic. But as the days passed, the nuncio



AP-Wide World  
Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega poses for a mugshot in Miami Thursday, Jan. 4.

## Cristiani says soldiers involved in Jesuit killings

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (CNS) — Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said Jan. 7 that members of the nation's armed forces were involved in the November killing of six prominent Jesuit priests and two women.

"It has been determined that there is involvement on the part of certain elements of the armed forces," Cristiani said in a five-minute national radio and television broadcast Jan. 7.

The six priests were shot at close range at their residence at Central American University in San Salvador. Their housekeeper and her daughter also were slain.

The priests — including the university

rector, Father Ignacio Ellacuria, and Father Segundo Montes, director of the university's Institute for Human Rights — were respected intellectuals who were strong advocates of dialogue between leftist rebels and the Salvadoran government.

Human rights and church workers immediately voiced suspicions that the killings, shocking even after 10 years of civil war and some 70,000 deaths, were the work of rightist death squads with links to the military.

"With the aim of determining the exact circumstances and clarifying the truth in all its magnitude, and due to the fact that the military institution is not going to allow any of its members to tarnish its profes-

sionalism and its morale, a special honor commission of officers of different ranks within the military hierarchy and of civilian lawyers has been created immediately," Cristiani said in his broadcast.

He said that commission would work with a commission previously set up by his government to assign responsibility in the killings so that "justice can be done in this objectionable crime." He said his government and the Salvadoran armed forces "are pledged to uncover the very last suspect in such a detestable crime."

In Rome Jan. 8, the Jesuit order welcomed Cristiani's statement.

"Yes, it does confirm our suspicions.

Continued on page 5

### Funeral Directors of the Rochester Diocese

#### ROCHESTER

<p><b>NULTON FUNERAL HOME</b> Penfield, New York 14526 (716) 381-3900</p>  <p>(716) 381-3900</p> <p>Malcolm M. Nulton</p> <p><b>ASHTON-SMITH FUNERAL HOME</b> Rochester, New York 14609 (716) 482-6260</p>	 <p>Set your mind at ease... Make your Funeral Arrangements with our Funeral Specialists</p>	<p><b>MATTLE FUNERAL HOME</b> Rochester, New York 14609 (716) 482-2440</p>  <p>(716) 381-3900</p> <p>James R. Gray</p> <p><b>PAYNE-NULTON FUNERAL HOME</b> Macedon, New York 14502 (315) 986-7781</p>
---	---	--

Those who wish to have arrangements carried out in accordance with the ideals of their faith, contact the funeral directors listed for pre-need or at-need services and counseling.

#### IRONDEQUOIT

<p><b>Paul W. Harris Funeral Home Inc.</b> Richard P. Harris Charles E. Davis 570 Kings Highway S. (corner Titus) (716) 544-2041</p>	<p><b>May Funeral Home</b> George L. May Jr., Raymond L. Welch 2793 Culver Rd. Rochester, N.Y. 14622 (716) 467-7957</p>	<p><b>Michael R. Yackiw Funeral Home</b> 1270 Norton Street Rochester, N.Y. 14621 (716) 544-5000 If no answer 342-9300</p>	<p><b>McLaughlin Funeral Home Inc.</b> John J. McLaughlin 871 Culver Road Rochester, NY 14609 (716) 482-1847</p>	<p><b>Schauman-Sulewski Funeral Home Inc.</b> Edwin Sulewski 2100 St. Paul Street Rochester, N.Y. 14621 (716) 342-3400</p>
--	---	--	--	--

#### GREECE

<p><b>Vay-Schleich and Meeson Funeral Home Inc.</b> "Greece's Largest and Most Complete Facilities" 2692 Dewey Avenue 1075 Long Pond Rd. (716) 663-2100</p>	<p><b>Arndt Funeral Home</b> 1118 Long Pond Rd. (south of Maiden Lane) Parking for over 100 cars Greece, N.Y. 14626 Ronald John Arndt (716) 225-6350</p>	<p><i>This Space Available</i></p>	<p><b>Schauman-Sulewski Funeral Home Inc.</b> Edwin Sulewski 2100 St. Paul Street Rochester, N.Y. 14621 (716) 342-3400</p>	<p><b>Crawford Funeral Home, Inc.</b> "Serving the Greater Rochester Area" Located at 495 N. Winton Rd. (Between Atlantic &amp; Humboldt) (716) 482-0400</p>
---	--	------------------------------------	--	--

#### GATES

<p><b>Alvah Halloran and Son, Inc. Funeral Home</b> H. Daniel Halloran 2125 Chili Avenue (716) 247-7590</p>	<p><b>DiPonzio Funeral Home, Inc.</b> (Across from St. Theodore's Church) 219 Spencerport Road Rochester, N.Y. 14606 254-6672</p>	<p><b>REICHART MONUMENT CO.</b> 348 Crestwood Blvd., Rochester, N.Y. 14624 (off Buffalo Rd. one block east of Howard) (716) 235-4490</p>	<p><b>Anthony Funeral Chapel, Inc.</b> Scott B. Anthony • Mark K. Anthony • Kenneth H. Eck 2305 Monroe Avenue (716) 244-0770</p>
---	---	--	--

#### BRIGHTON

#### WEBSTER

<p><b>HART MONUMENT CO.</b> 2301 Dewey Avenue Opposite Holy Sepulchre Cemetery Since 1856 865-6746</p>	<p><b>Smith, Lotze &amp; Anthony Funeral Chapel</b> Scott B. Anthony • Mark K. Anthony • Frank L. Klick 10 Lapham Park • Webster (716) 265-9550</p>
--	---