

El Salvador's judicial system still scares some

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — The judge and two prosecutors involved in the trial of the soldiers charged with murdering six Jesuit priests will leave El Salvador immediately after sentencing, according to church sources.

A jury convicted two of the killings on Saturday. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Judge Ricardo Zamora will leave after he sentences Col. Guillermo Benevides and Lt. Yussly Mendoza.

Two private prosecutors hired by the Jesuits, Henry Campos and Sidney Blanco, told journalists they also will leave El Salvador, to study law.

The sources gave no unequivocal explanation for the three officials' departure, but officials in sensitive cases in the past have been threatened or killed.

The Jesuit case was particularly sensitive because it marked the first time in El Sal-

Judge and prosecutors in the Jesuit case to leave

vador that military officers have been convicted of human rights violations, despite a continual stream of accusations over the past dozen years.

Jorge Alberto Serrano, a military judge who presided in the trial of a kidnapping ring that included officers and far-rightists, was killed in May 1988. There have been no arrests in that case.

The priests, who were teachers at the Jesuit-run University of Central America, were forced from their quarters and shot to death by soldiers on Nov. 16, 1989.

Their housekeeper and her teen-age daughter also were killed, apparently to eliminate

witnesses.

Many within the military considered the Jesuits to be leftist sympathizers. Several of the accused said they were acting under orders to kill the priests and eliminate witnesses.

Jose Maria Tojeira, the head of the Jesuit order in Central America, said he was surprised that only two of the nine had been convicted.

"We thought there would be a guilty verdict for all of them," he said in a television interview. "We thought the crimes were sufficiently proved."

The jury, which was kept hidden during the trial for its own protection, acquitted two lieutenants and five enlisted

men, including one tried in absentia.

Some of the acquitted soldiers had confessed to shooting the priests.

The army patrol responsible for the killings came from the military school, which Benevides directed.

The judge has 30 days to sentence Benevides and Mendoza.

The maximum penalty is 30 years in prison.

The Jesuits and others have contended that the killings were ordered by senior military officers, and that those responsible for the orders and an attempted cover-up have gone free.

Church and diplomatic sources said Zamora may go to England, where he has received invitations to speak on legal matters at several institutes and universities.

Recycle This Paper

Columbian officials cut peace talks

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The government suspended peace talks Monday with leftist guerrillas after police killed the rebels for killing six people during an attack on Colombia's former Senate president.

Gunmen ambushed Aurelio Iragorri on Monday as he was campaigning near the southwestern town of Cajibío. Iragorri was not hurt, but six people in his entourage, including the town's former mayor, were killed.

Police blamed the attack on the National Liberation Army, an insurgent group known by its Spanish acronym ELN. A rebel spokesman said he had no such information.

It was the fifth attack in recent weeks on candidates in congressional and gubernatorial elections set for Oct. 27.

In a communique announcing the suspension of peace talks, the government called Monday's attack "criminal" and "cowardly." The statement did not say whether the suspension was permanent.

The gunmen killed four of Iragorri's police bodyguards, the former mayor and a civilian accompanying the candidate in his car. Authorities said police in helicopters were dispatched to the area and exchanged gunfire with insurgents on the ground.

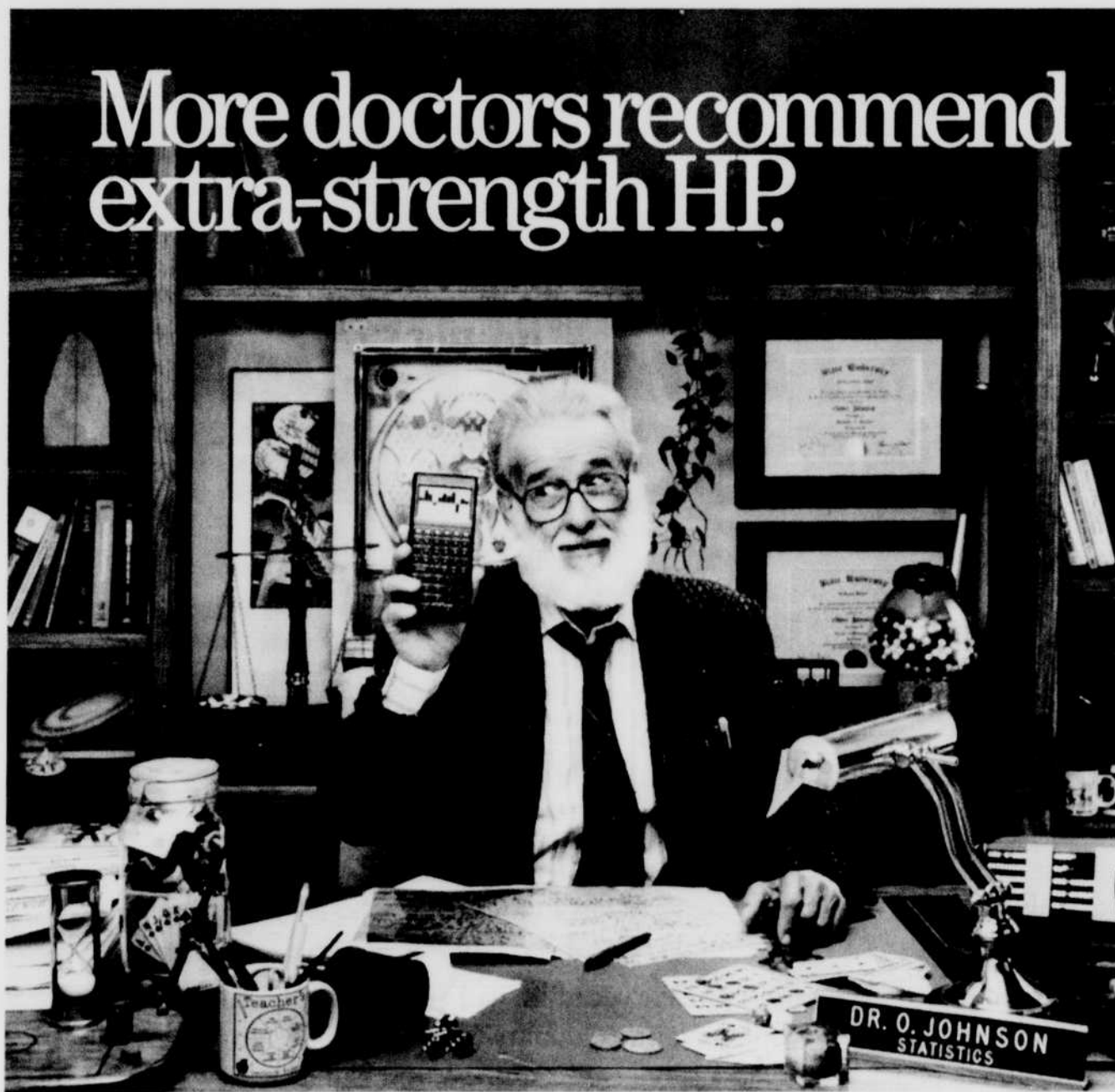
Iragorri, a former Senate president, is a member of the President Cesar Gaviria's governing Liberal Party.

Government peace negotiators have been meeting in Venezuela since June with representatives of the Colombia's two remaining rebel groups, the ELN and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

In its communique, the government said it was suspending negotiations so its negotiators could return to Bogota to confer with the president.

Smaller rebel groups have already signed peace accords, and one, the M-19, has become a major opposition political party.

More doctors recommend extra-strength HP.



More and more PhDs across the country are recommending Hewlett-Packard financial and scientific calculators to their students. And for some very strong reasons.

"The HP 48SX Scientific Expandable has powerful graphics tools that are remarkably helpful to students learning mathematically complex concepts. And with the equation solver feature, it's excellent for applying mathematics to engineering," according to Dr. William Rahnemeyer, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Utah State University.

"The HP Business Consultant II has an equation solver and extensive

math functions. These free the students from computational tedium so they can think and interact on a higher level," says Dr. Lee V. Stiff, a professor of math education at North Carolina State University.

So go check out the HP calculator line at your college bookstore or HP retailer. You'll agree, there's no faster relief from the pain of tough problems.

HP calculators. The best for your success.



hp HEWLETT PACKARD