

Chile Dragnet for Priest and 2 Nuns

Santiago, Chile

Security agents hunted yesterday for a Roman Catholic priest and two American nuns accused of giving refuge to Chile's most wanted left-wing extremists.

The military government released an extensive report claiming that priests and nuns of various religious orders and nationalities have collaborated to hide and give refuge to the extremists, all members of the underground Revolutionary Left Movement, known as MIR from its initials in Spanish.

Sought by security agents were the Rev. Fernando Salas, a Chilean citizen and a member of the Jesuit order, and two U.S. nuns: Sister Peggy Lepcio, a Maryknoll nun of New Rochelle, N.Y., and Sister Helen Nelson of the order of School Sisters of Notre Dame.

The government announcement also named five other priests and nuns who allegedly helped the extremists. They include Sister Paula Armstrong, a School Sister of Notre Dame from Massachusetts, and the Rev. Philip Devlin, an American priest of the Holy Cross order.

Associated Press