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9th DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON RULES

CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

November 21, 1991

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Dear Colleague:

We are writing to urge that you join us in co-sponsoring HR 3782 -- a bill to promote peace and reconciliation in El Salvador. This legislation would simply subject all U.S. military aid to the Salvadoran Government after March 31, 1992, to congressional reprogramming. The bill also allows for monies to be transferred into the Demobilization and Transition Fund, to help combatants from both sides of the conflict reintegrate into Salvadoran Society and to assist in the rebuilding of that war-torn country.

This bill is an attempt to send a strong and clear message to both the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN that the Congress of the United States supports unequivocally the U.N.-sponsored negotiations, and that we fully expect those talks to succeed. It is the further intent of this legislation to encourage both sides to exercise military restraint as they work out the logistics for a lasting peace in El Salvador. It is our sincere hope that when the Congress formally addresses this matter early next year, the central issue will not be the amount of military aid -- but, rather the amount of reconstruction aid.

As we prepare for these challenges, this bill will encourage closer consultations between the Executive branch and the Congress. Clearly, this is needed as we work together to formulate policies that will help rebuild a country that has nearly been destroyed by over a decade of war.

It is important to make clear that this bill in no way abandons the U.S. commitment to the Salvadoran Government. If the FMLN launches an offensive that results "in a radical change in the military situation in El Salvador," we have no doubt that the appropriate congressional committees will swiftly and expeditiously work with the Administration to provide additional assistance to the Salvadoran armed forces. However, the Administration has stated that is does not "expect or foresee" that to happen.

At the same time, the Congress must make clear to the Salvadoran army that it must negotiate in good faith -- and that we regard its behavior during the investigation of the Jesuit's case as a grave disappointment. We expected more and the Salvadoran people deserved much more.

We urge you to join as a co-sponsor of this legislation which we believe sends the right signal at the right time. We have an opportunity to help push the negotiations forward and to encourage an end to the fighting, as well as a lasting peace.

If you are interested in becoming a co-sponsor, please contact either Jim McGovern, or Chad Wollerton in Congressman Moakley's office at 5-8273.

ohn Joseph Moakl Matthew F. McHugh Dick Gephandt Richard A. Gephardt Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Mel Levine

Christopher Shays

Sincerely, David R. Obe Robert G. Torricelli Lee H. Hamilton Ted Weiss

Barbara Boxer

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF H.R. 3782

- * Expresses Congressional support for the New York Agreement signed by the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN; commends the negotiators for the contending parties and the role played by the United Nations in achieving that agreement; calls upon the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN to accelerate their efforts to achieve a comprehensive agreement to end the war; and reaffirms Congressional support for the role of the United Nations in helping to achieve such an agreement.
- * Urges the President to work closely and cooperatively with the Congress in fashioning an assistance policy for El Salvador that supports the efforts of those seeking a negotiated solution, and that contributes to national reconstruction and reconciliation.
- * Requires the President to seek the approval of four committees of Congress (the Committees on Appropriations and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations and Foreign Relations of the Senate) before providing further military aid to El Salvador.
- * Permits the transfer of military aid to the Demobilization and Transition Fund for El Salvador (established by Congress last year) to meet costs associated with the "demobilization, retraining, relocation, and reemployment in civilian pursuits of former combatants." Monies transferred to the Fund can only be obligated once a permanent settlement, including a cease-fire, is reached. Requires the President to seek the approval of the same four committees of Congress noted above before spending monies transferred to the Fund.
- * Carries forward certain provisions from current law: (1) concerning the objectives of U.S. assistance, (2) subjecting U.S. military aid to civilian control in El Salvador, and (3) terminating all U.S. assistance to El Salvador in the event of a coup.
- * Expresses continuing Congressional concern regarding the murders of the Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter, and of American military personnel Dawson and Pickett.