



EMBAJADA DE EL SALVADOR
AGREGADURIA DE DEFENSA

2308 CALIFORNIA STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON D. C.

7/19/90

Mr. Jim McGovern
Legislative Assistant to
Rep. Joe Moakley

Dear Mr. McGovern:

On behalf of the Armed Forces of El Salvador, and knowing of your interest in my country, I am writing this letter to inform you of several terrorist actions committed by the FMLN recently, that in my opinion are intended to endanger the possibility of bringing peace to El Salvador soon.

I have been very optimistic about the present peace process between the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN. The possibility of peace is higher now than at any other time in the last ten years. However, the recent assassination of off-duty military officers carried out and publicly claimed by the FMLN brings to serious question the real purposes of their strategy.

On one hand, the FMLN has publicly threatened to launch another offensive if they do not get what they want in the round of talks scheduled to begin in Costa Rica on the 20th of this month.

On the other hand, the FMLN'S campaign of assassinations is designed to provoke the failure of the negotiations and to try to provoke a violent reaction by members of the Salvadoran military.

The latest incidents in the pattern of FMLN provocations against the Armed Forces are:

- Major Carlos Alfonso Figueroa, 42, was assassinated by the FMLN on 09 July as he was leaving his home to attend an evening class at a civilian university. Major Figueroa was off-duty and wearing civilian clothes. The FMLN took responsibility for the assassination.

- Captain Ramón Aristides Reyes, 30, off-duty and also in civilian clothes, was assassinated on the 17th of July as he was driving his car with his wife, who was shot twice during the attack. Captain Reyes was an exemplary soldier and he leaves behind three young children. Once again the FMLN took responsibility for the assassination.

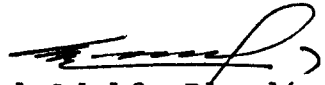
These two assassinations are not isolated incidents, but rather are part of a pattern of provocation directed against the Armed Forces. The attacks began last year, when the FMLN placed bombs in the homes of several officers, causing damage and endangering many innocent lives. Then the FMLN started to assassinate relatives of officers, including the daughter of a Colonel on her 23rd birthday and the son-in-law of a general. As of this year, the FMLN has assassinated in cold blood 3 officers and has made attempts to assassinate several others. Since the FMLN has taken credit for these actions, the only interpretation is that they are trying to provoke a hardening of the position of the military, which has so far given its full support to the ongoing peace process.

I am convinced that if we are going to find peace in El Salvador, these provocations must stop immediately. So far, the FMLN has acted with complete impunity, both legal and political. The only way that this attempt to undermine the peace process will stop is if the FMLN is made to pay a political price for their actions by an international rejection and condemnation for the assassination of off-duty military officers and their relatives.

Until now, almost nobody outside El Salvador knows about these FMLN attempts to derail the peace process.

Any action that you can take on this regard will be a very significant contribution to the peace that we all want for El Salvador.

Sincerely,


General Adolfo Blandón
Defense Attache
Embassy of El Salvador
Washington, D. C.