

EL SALVADOR TASK FORCE AGENDA  
05 APRIL 1990

1. COUNTRY UPDATE 5 minutes
  - a. April 4 Agreement
  - b. Zamora & Cristiani on McNeil-Lehrer
2. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 35 minutes
  - a. Status of discussions with Administration
    - feeling among House Democrats about desire to work something out with Administration
    - next steps
    - update on Senate meetings with Administration
  - b. Legislation
    - status of "Studds" proposal
    - recommended action
    - review of swing list
  - c. Timeline
    - votes
    - Moakley Task Force and ACFPC Report's
3. REVIEW HILL STRATEGY CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK 35 minutes
  - April 2 through April 27
4. REVIEW HOUSE AND SENATE SWING LIST ASSIGNMENTS 15 minutes
  - offices not yet contacted

# The Boston Globe

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## Salvador: doing the right thing

With the announcement that the government of El Salvador and the FMLN guerrillas have agreed to start peace talks under UN mediation in Geneva, it is now crunch time for Congress on aid to Salvador. The congressional leadership has been quietly debating whether to make US dollars a lever for peace. It is time for them to end that debate and act.

For the first time, the Bush Administration seems to be worried that Congress may find the nerve to cut aid. President Bush has dispatched Secretary of State James Baker 3d to persuade Congress not to rock the boat.

The strongest approach has been advocated by Sen. Kerry - a total cutoff of aid until the government opens peace negotiations under UN mediation and punishes the killers of the Jesuits. A slightly more flexible measure backed by Sen. Christopher Dodd (and used as a model for similar legislation in the House) has a stronger chance of passage and would also send a resound-

ing message in support of the Geneva talks.

The Dodd measure would cut off half the military assistance remaining in the pipeline for the current fiscal year, about \$40 million. The money withheld would be released only 1.) if the FMLN guerrillas refuse to negotiate in good faith; 2.) mount a major assault threatening the government; or 3.) receive a large amount of foreign military aid.

Those provisions create an incentive for the guerrillas to live up to their commitments to negotiate. The rest of the money could be cut off if the government rejects UN mediation or fails to press investigation of the Jesuit murders.

This two-edged proposal would put pressure on both the government and the guerrillas, keeping them at the table in Geneva. Congress is morally bound to support the peace talks. By passing the Kerry or Dodd measures Congress will do the right thing.