

## Facts on TPS

\* TPS stands for "temporary protected status." It was originally a Moakley legislative initiative that became law in 1990 as part of the Immigration Act of 1990.

\* TPS provided Salvadorans with an 18 month stay of deportation and work authorization -- nothing more. There are no public welfare benefits involved. TPS also provided a statutory framework for the Attorney General to extend the period of protection or provide TPS to other nationalities (which he has done in the cases of Lebanon, Kuwait and Liberia).

\* Approximately 200,000 Salvadoran have registered for TPS. State and local government agencies assert that Salvadorans have taken jobs that traditionally are difficult to fill (i.e. dish-washers, bus-boys, etc...). They are no drain on our economy.

\* It is estimated that remittances from Salvadorans in the US adds up to more than the total amount of US aid for a given fiscal year.

\* Moakley has asked that TPS be extended beyond June 30 (when it expires) for another 18 months. We feel any less time would be a bureaucratic nightmare -- and, furthermore, we do not want to revisit this issue for at least another 18 months! I talked with Senator DeConcini's staff last night, and it is my understanding that he is sending a letter to the Administration asking for the same thing.

\* The Salvadoran Government, the FMLN and every single political party in El Salvador supports this.

\* It is important that the Administration act NOW. Many refugees have called our office already. They are nervous. We don't want them to go underground. The way to keep them legal and ease their minds -- and the minds of the Government -- is to act ASAP.

---I've attached the letters we've sent to Baker and Barr....FYI.

Again, all that is needed for the extension to become reality is for the Attorney General to order it --that's it.

DEPUTY WHIP

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January 9, 1992

The Honorable James A. Baker III  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

\*identical letter sent to  
Attorney General William Barr

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to urge that the Administration extend "Temporary Protected Status" (TPS) for Salvadoran nationals currently in the United States for another 18 months. As you know, on June 30, 1992, TPS will expire for approximately 200,000 Salvadorans who have registered for the program. If TPS is not extended, most will be forced to return to El Salvador.

It is my view that there are compelling reasons to extend TPS at this very delicate moment in time. First, an extension will help promote the very difficult and complicated task of implementing a lasting peace in El Salvador. I, like many others, applaud the Administration's efforts which helped lead to the historic peace agreements recently in New York City. After 12 years of bloody civil war and political polarization, it will undoubtedly take at least another 18 months for the peace accords to move from words on paper to reality on the ground. Forcibly sending back thousands of refugees at the beginning of this process can only do damage to the prospects for a durable peace.

Second, given El Salvador's tragic history, it may well be that elements of the extreme right or elements of the extreme left might try to sabotage the important peace accords through acts of violence. We should, therefore, refrain from forcibly deporting Salvadorans until we can be assured that the acts of violence and civil unrest, which initially prompted the passage of TPS, have subsided.

Third, in the coming weeks, Congress and the Administration will have to decide on future aid levels for El Salvador. Given our own limited funding capabilities and our domestic priorities, we obviously are constrained in the levels of aid we can provide. On the other hand, it is estimated that remittances from Salvadorans now in the United States back to El Salvador are as high as \$700 million annually. It would seem unwise for the United States to take any action which might eliminate that source of aid at this important stage in the peace process.

Finally, it is my understanding that President Cristiani, leaders of every political party represented in the Legislative Assembly, and the opposition FMLN all agree that an extension of TPS is critical. They realize, as I hope the Administration does, that terminating TPS in June of this year would have a devastating impact on the refugees forced to return to El Salvador, the Salvadoran economy, the human rights situation, and the chances for a real and lasting peace.

I would strongly urge the Administration to announce within the next few weeks an extension of the TPS program for Salvadorans. This would reassure the Government of El Salvador, calm the fears of refugees in the United States and contribute to the political and economic stability of that war-torn country.

Sincerely,

John Joseph Moakley

JJM:jpm

cc: Bernard Aronson



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Moakley:

Thank you for your letter of January 9, 1992 to Secretary Baker, requesting that the Administration extend for an additional 18 months Temporary Protected Status (TPS) granted to salvadorans in the United States under the provisions of the Immigration Act of 1990 (IMMACT).

As you are aware, under the provisions of the IMMACT, the Attorney General, after consultations with appropriate agencies, may grant TPS to nationals of a designated state after finding that it comes within the statutory provisions for such grant.

The Department of State will participate in any consultative proceedings with the Attorney General's office about an extension of TPS for Salvadorans, and will advise him accordingly. In the consultations we will, of course, present and take into account your position and views as stated in your letter.

We share your desires and hopes in promoting the chances for a real and lasting peace in El Salvador and for the political and economic stability of the country.

Sincerely,

Janet G. Mullins  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable  
John J. Moakley,  
House of Representatives.

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More Times Asked for Salvadorans in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) Salvadorans living in the United States should be allowed an additional 18 months before having to return to their homeland, Rep. Joseph Moakley, D-Mass., said Thursday.

Some 200,000 Salvadorans now have temporary protected status in the United States, which permits them to stay because of political turmoil in their Central American country. But that status is set to expire June 30.

The Salvadoran government and leftist rebels recently concluded a peace agreement to end 12 years of civil war, which has cost more than 70,000 lives. But Moakley said it will take months for peace to become a reality.

"Forcibly sending back thousands of refugees at the beginning of this process can only do damage to the prospects for a durable peace," Moakley wrote in letters to Secretary of State James A. Baker III and Attorney General William P. Barr.

Moakley noted that there will be pressure on Congress to cut U.S. aid to El Salvador and that the estimated \$700 million a year that Salvadorans send back to their country from their U.S. earnings is an important source of stabilizing aid.

*all - my friend - it's my life.*

*The Republic is not at all young -  
It's just getting started. The only  
thing that counts is the people  
and the future.*

# The Miami Herald

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## Salvadorans still at risk

**T**HE PEACE treaty signed after months of arduous negotiations between the Salvadoran government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) augurs a new era in Salvadoran history. They were all brought together in Mexico under the auspices of the United Nations and several Latin American democracies.

After Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani signed the treaty, he shook hands with the chief guerrilla leaders. Will their moving, conciliatory handshake really end 12 years of bloodletting and destruction?

That question will be tested strenuously, and immediately. Some on both sides — FMLN and military leaders, equally case-hardened — are unhappy with the accord.

The army's size will be cut by half, and the guerrillas must dismantle completely. And after Feb. 1, a cease-fire is to take effect. Despite international supervision, the cease-fire could fall apart, or war could continue by other means. Death squads of the left or right could begin to settle old accounts by murdering demobilized soldiers and guerrillas. Remarkable and heartening as it is, the peace treaty by itself cannot

### DESPITE NEW PEACE TREATY

erase years of hatred and suspicion.

Hence, until Washington can ascertain that the war in Salvador is truly over, it should permit the approximately 189,000 Salvadorans living in the United States under Temporary Protected Status to apply for extensions — or for asylum — when their TPS expires in June.

Until Washington granted the Salvadorans TPS, it was almost impossible for them to receive political asylum. Even when they could make a legitimate case, most were turned down on ideological grounds. They were fleeing a country whose government receives lavish U.S. support.

The Salvadorans are still entitled to the benefits of the TPS/asylum process. Their cases should be heard. Though a peace treaty has been signed, it does not mean that Salvadorans should be deported *en masse* when TPS runs out. Rather, they should be sent back only when the peace accord has been in place — and working — for several months.

## Salvadorans Rally at White House to Stay in U.S.

By Sandra Torrey  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Hundreds of Salvadorans marched from Adams-Morgan to the White House yesterday afternoon, chanting and waving banners to protest the scheduled end of a program that gives them temporary legal residence in the United States.

Salvadorans from the Washington area and as far away as New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts took their case to Lafayette Square, across from the White House.

In the park, the event became both rally and festival, as Salvadoran bands played and the protesters chanted in Spanish, "¿Quiéren irse? No, no, no. Nos quedamos? Si, si, si." The translated message was, "Do you want to leave? No, no, no. Do we stay? Yes, yes, yes." D.C. police said about 500 people took part in the rally. Organizers said 2,000 people participated.

The protesters want the administration to extend "temporary protective status," known as TPS,

granted under federal law in 1990. The 18-month program expires June 30, but Attorney General William P. Barr could extend it.

The Bush administration has not indicated whether it will extend the program, Immigration and Naturalization spokesman Duke Austin said yesterday. He added that no one will be deported without full proceedings, which are not expected to begin until March 1993.

Meanwhile, Austin said, Salvadorans who have work permits under TPS will be able to continue working legally. The program affects about 187,000 nationwide, more than 26,000 in the Washington area, according to the INS.

"Things are not so good [in El Salvador] since the war stopped and we will not get any jobs," said 23-year-old Carlos Alberto Hernandez, who lives on Long Island and does factory work. "I want to stay here. I want to live here forever."

The peace treaty signed in January between the U.S.-backed Sal-

vadoran government and its leftist guerrilla opponents ended 12 years of civil war. But it seemed to give little comfort to those who had fled and marched yesterday.

Maria Vides, 20, who came to Washington with her family as a tourist five years ago and now lives in Northwest Washington, said, "I don't believe a peace treaty means peace" in El Salvador.

She and her family—father, step-mother and four siblings—planned never to go back to El Salvador, she said, where her teenage brother might have been drafted and where they felt their lives in danger.

Vides is a bookkeeper and has been attending college classes. In El Salvador, she said, "It is hard for students, for women to find work."

The INS's Austin said that "there should be a conclusion to [the Salvadorans'] situation sometime in the future. We are talking about people who entered the U.S. illegally."

Staff writer Gabriel Escobar contributed to this report.



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