Regionse to all the El. Sal. letters

Dear	<u></u>	FP-ES3	ok John
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Thank you for notifying me of your views regarding President Reagan's decision to certify human rights progress on the part of the government of El Salvador.

Let me assure you that I firmly opposed to this action. Every report I have read dealing with the conditions in El Salvador leads me to believe, beyond a doubt, that the present government of El Salvador lacks respect for the most basic civil and human rights of its people.

President Reagan, in a letter to Congress, justified his certification by stating that the Duarte government is making a sincere effort "to comply with internationally recognized human rights." The President based his statement on information he received from the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador. However, on January 27,1982, the Washington Post reported that Embassy officials admitted that their information was "based entirely on information published in the San Salvador press." Obviously, such information is biased in favor of the present Duarte government. In the Max fact, according to that same Washington Post article, Embassy statistics indicate that human rights conditions are worsening.

Other human rights organizations only reinforce what was stated in the Washington Post. **For ** example, according to the Legal Aid Office of THe Archdioces of El Salvador, 10,714 *** people were killed in "acts of repression" from January 1981 to late September. Of these, 6,703 were estimated to have been killed by the army or by security forces. Many of the others were suspected to have been killed by "death squads" operating with the protection and tolerance of the military.

I have ** on several occasions made my feelings known about U.S. policy toward El Salvador. I have repeatedly advocated the termination of military aid to the repressive regime presently in power, and have cosponsored legislation directed toward this goal. Recently, I have joined with my colleague, Rep. Gerry Studds (D-Mass), in cosponsoring H.J. Res. 399, a measure calling for a suspension of U.S. military aid to El Salvador until the Senate and House have both concluded that the conditions established by law have truly been met. I also addressed XXX my colleagues in the House on this Jim, I entered it as FP-ES3

Please proofread = nake my corrections

Enclosure you desire. matter and have enclosed a copy of these remarks for your information.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

JJMMOC

J McG