

Corrections by  
Scott Greathead  
2/25/90 2

PROCEEDINGS

1  
2 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Lucia, if you could just  
3 tell us a little bit about yourself, about your  
4 education and your background.

5 MRS. DE CERNA: [Interpreted from Spanish] I  
6 am called Lucia Barrera de Cerna. I'm 44 years old. I  
7 went to sixth grade, elementary school. I worked with  
8 the Jesuits.

9 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: What kind of work?

10 MRS. DE CERNA: My job is to clean, to sweep  
11 and to mop.

12 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Have you ever been in the  
13 United States before?

14 MRS. DE CERNA: No.

15 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Have you ever been on an  
16 airplane before?

17 MRS. DE CERNA: The first time was when we  
18 flew here to come here.

19 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. I know this is  
20 going to be very painful, but if you could, just give  
21 us the best way possible what happened the night when  
22 you looked out the window and saw the men in the

1 military uniforms at the university.

2 MRS. DE CERNA: It is very painful to  
3 remember that, because it seems to me as if it was  
4 happening again every time I remember it. It was early  
5 in the morning of the 16th, Thursday the 16th, when we  
6 heard--when we started to hear shots, shots being  
7 heard, in what we called the woods. And then the  
8 shooting became more sporadic and then from the woods  
9 it sounded like there was a confrontation there. And  
10 then my husband woke me up and that's when I started  
11 hearing.

12 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Where was she when she was  
13 observing this?

14 MRS. DE CERNA: I was living in House 16,  
15 which Father Ignat<sup>o</sup> Martine<sup>b</sup>-Barro lent me to stay  
16 there because I was--I came on Wednesday, because I was  
17 fleeing from the war in Soyapango. Because since  
18 Saturday we were not having any water there in  
19 Soyapango. We didn't have any food left. And in view  
20 of the circumstances, I told my husband that I was  
21 going to ask for help from my boss. And my request for  
22 help consisted in asking them to put us up during the

1 time waiting for these war skirmishes to stop.

2 Because in my house there was shooting on  
3 this side and on this side too, on both sides. On  
4 Wednesday at six o'clock in the morning we left with a  
5 white flag, because there was a stoppage of the  
6 shooting for 24 hours.

7 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: And she went to the  
8 Casa 16?

9 MRS. DE CERNA: When we arrived to the center  
10 we then went to--

11 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: When you talk about "the  
12 center," you are talking about the Romero Center?

13 MRS. DE CERNA: No. The center of San  
14 Salvador, the town. I'm explaining this so that you  
15 can understand it.

16 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: I appreciate that.

17 MRS. DE CERNA: And when we arrived to the  
18 center of San Salvador I told my husband, look, we  
19 ought to get some flour, because my husband, when we  
20 return back we do want to have a supply of flour,  
21 because my husband has a little bakery where we live.

22 And we had some money along, because we were

1 expecting to spend it for the time that we were going  
2 to be away. And since we have good relationship I knew  
3 that we could buy on credit this flour because they  
4 would extend us a good credit and we would be received  
5 with open arms, really, and go back home and have  
6 enough flour for the supply we needed.

7           And after this flour business was settled, I  
8 told my husband, look, let's call Father Nachito and  
9 tell him what our circumstances are, because our  
10 employers there in our country are open to listen to  
11 our worries and problems that we encounter in the daily  
12 living. And I proceeded to call him from a public  
13 telephone from the center of the town.

14           When I talked to him, I knew that UCA--

15           THE INTERPRETER: She calls it UCA. UCA is  
16 the Central American University.

17           MRS. DE CERNA: --because I worked at the  
18 UCA, at the Central American University, and I knew  
19 that it was empty really, that nobody was there, except  
20 the person who was in charge of the cleaning. The head  
21 of the cleaning crew had a room there, but I knew that  
22 the house was larger and that's why I called the

1 Father, so that--because I had the intention to have  
2 him let us stay in this house for a few days.

3 When I talked to the Father, when I got him  
4 on the phone, I told him, look Father, I am desperate,  
5 and I am basically destitute because of this war. And  
6 he was at the House 15, and he told me, don't worry  
7 about a thing. And I told him, look it will take me a  
8 few hours before I come to your place because there is  
9 no transportation.

10 I then finished the conversation on the  
11 phone. I hung up quickly and then we continued walking  
12 and going up and up and up looking for the stop of the  
13 101 bus. Because when there are strikes we know that  
14 there are always trucks there, or buses sometimes, that  
15 are running. And then we got the transportation and we  
16 went to Antigua Cuzcatlan, where my mother lives.

17 And my mother doesn't have a house, she just  
18 has a room. It is a room just for her. And I just  
19 wanted to leave my things there, my suitcases, and then  
20 go to the Father's place. And I arrived at the  
21 Father's place, at the Father's house, about two in the  
22 afternoon.

1 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: That's Father Nacho?

2 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes. And then I arrived to  
3 House 15, and these are houses that I know personally.  
4 because I have been involved in the cleaning for them  
5 before I started working at the University of Central  
6 America. And when I rang the bell I was very happy,  
7 because at the first ring the Father opened personally  
8 very quickly. And then he said, woman, and he told me,  
9 "Please be welcome, come on, come on.

10 And I told him, Father, please excuse me that  
11 I come and bother you with my personal problems, but I  
12 told you already how things are in Soyapango.

13 And he said, here we are, we are here to  
14 serve you today for you and you will serve me tomorrow.  
15 And we were talking and I told him, Father there is so  
16 much shooting everywhere.

17 And he told me, don't worry, here everything  
18 is very calm. If you want to go there to the UCA, the  
19 University of Central America, you can go in there.  
20 Everything is very calm and quiet here.

21 And I told him, look, all that shooting that  
22 is going on outside. And then he said, well, look, as

1 a matter of fact the working women of the house have  
2 not been able to come because they have not been able  
3 to leave Tecla. And then I told him, well, instead of  
4 just being sitting here and waiting until they open the  
5 UCA, the University of Central America, then he said,  
6 oh, to open the University of Central America, God  
7 knows when they are going to open that one again.

8 And then I said, well, if your servants have  
9 not come, Father, why don't you give me a place to live  
10 and I will prepare the dinner for you. And he told me  
11 just wait, just wait.

12 And then he asked me when are you coming  
13 back? And then I told him, well, I am going to go to  
14 the casa antigua, that's the old house, and then I'm  
15 coming back, but I don't know exactly at what time I'm  
16 coming back. But before I told him that, I told him,  
17 look, what a surprising fact this is, Father. This is  
18 all lonely, there is not a soul around here. And  
19 because the House 15 and House 16 were empty, without  
20 anyone, and 15 and 16 are just one house.

21 And we entered. We went in there where the  
22 chapel was of House 15. And he told me, oh, this room

1 is just very dirty. And he told me, look, and here it  
2 is quite cold, furthermore, because there is this water  
3 here.

4 And we went through the door that divides  
5 House 15 from House 16. And then he told me, look,  
6 here are some wires where you can hang up the clothes,  
7 so you go over there and wash the clothes and there is  
8 also a--these are two rooms here, and one and a half  
9 baths: And then he said, which room do you prefer,  
10 this one or that one?

11 And I told him, look I would like this room  
12 because this was the room that used to belong to Father  
13 Jerez.

14 FATHER TIPTON: I don't mean to interrupt,  
15 but I know that we are on a time, and Lucia tells a  
16 very long story. If it would be all right, I can help  
17 kind of focus it for you.

18 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Well, I tried to do that  
19 twice, and I was--

20 FATHER TIPTON: Well, let me try to do it.  
21 By the way, this is an undergraduate college student.

22 Tell Lucia that the Members of Congress are



1 very busy and they want to go to the real important  
2 points.

3 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: You can use the  
4 translator.

5 FATHER TIPTON: But she'll listen to him very  
6 well. Go ahead.

7 MR. TEHERA: [Speaks in Spanish.]

8 FATHER TIPTON: Now tell her I said that.

9 MR. TEHERA: [Speaks in Spanish.]

10 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes, I was going to tell you  
11 the whole thing.

12 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Just tell us about the  
13 night that the shooting started.

14 MRS. DE CERNA: We went to bed about seven  
15 o'clock in the evening. And I was very tired, as well  
16 as my husband was tired, and my daughter. We lay down  
17 on two mattresses that the Father lent us, Nacho lent  
18 us. And I fell asleep, because I was very tired from  
19 walking that much. And then we heard--I don't know  
20 what time it was--we heard this shooting or skirmishes,  
21 or I don't know what you call it.

22 And I woke up because my husband touched me.

1 And the shooting was then at the time in the woods  
2 there. And I told myself, God, I said, they are going  
3 to have a shooting confrontation here too. And then  
4 there was some shooting in an area where we keep the  
5 food. And after that shooting, sporadic shooting, we  
6 heard that they were knocking at the residence. It was  
7 not a soft knocking, it was a very heavy knocking.

8 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Was she looking out the  
9 window at this time or was she still in bed?

10 MRS. DE CERNA: I was in bed. And then I  
11 told my husband, my goodness, here they are coming for  
12 another ~~persecuting~~ cater

13 MR. GREATHEAD: No. What she is referring is  
14 a search. There had been a search of the pastoral  
15 center a few nights earlier on November 13th, and what  
16 she was remarking to him is that this is not another  
17 search.

18 MRS. DE CERNA: The Father had told me when  
19 we arrived that afternoon, he had told me, don't worry  
20 about it--when we arrived on Wednesday--don't worry  
21 about it, we are not going to have any more violence  
22 because the boys already came to do the search and they

1 were very polite and everything went all right.

2 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: When did that search take  
3 place?

4 MRS. DE CERNA: I didn't pay too much  
5 attention. I don't know exactly if he said one of  
6 these days or if he told me on Monday. I don't  
7 remember. But when the banging on the door was taking  
8 place I was very surprised that they were going to do  
9 another search again. And then I became wide awake and  
10 then you could hear a door bang on one side and another  
11 door bang on the other side. They were opening and  
12 closing doors, and they were shooting in the house.  
13 They were shooting in the house.

14 And then I heard some soft voices, and the  
15 voice that was the most prominent one was the one of  
16 Father Nachito.

17 And then this is what got me, these voices,  
18 some of the things I could understand, others I  
19 couldn't hear, and there is shooting. And that made me  
20 say, dear Lord.

21 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Nachito and Nacho is the  
22 same fellow?

1 THE INTERPRETER: Yes.

2 MR. GREATHEAD: It's Padre Nacho or Padre  
3 Nachito.

4 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Okay. Is she still in bed  
5 while all this is going on, or is she looking out the  
6 window?

7 MRS. DE CERNA: At that time it got to me,  
8 and I got up on the tip of my toes. I went to the  
9 other room and I looked through the window, not the  
10 whole body out of the window, because I was afraid. My  
11 whole body was cold.

12 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: How far away is she at  
13 this point where from the shooting is going on?

14 MRS. DE CERNA: Maybe 50 meters. I'm not  
15 sure. Because I can't tell exactly how many meters.

16 THE INTERPRETER: That's about a 150 feet.

17 MRS. DE CERNA: But I suppose it was.

18 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Were there any lights  
19 around at that time?

20 MRS. DE CERNA: There was no electricity  
21 because I had tried to cook the meal in the evening,  
22 because I had been lent a little kitchenette by Father

1 Nacho, and I couldn't because there was no electricity.

2 The whole zone, the whole area was without  
3 power. I got up on my tip toes. When I looked through  
4 window, I didn't get my whole face out of the window  
5 because I was afraid.

6 I saw five men standing at the main entrance  
7 gate. And with the little bit of light there was, two  
8 were looking towards me. They had clothes on that was  
9 full of patches.

10 MR. GREATHEAD: Spotted.

11 MRS. DE CERNA: Patches.

12 MR. GREATHEAD: Camouflage.

13 MRS. DE CERNA: And the other three, I saw  
14 that they had dark clothing on.

15 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Different from the other  
16 two?

17 MRS. DE CERNA: They were not in the light of  
18 the night and so I cannot tell you, because they were  
19 in the dark area

20 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: So they could have been  
21 all wearing the same uniforms?

22 MRS. DE CERNA: The only thing I saw was two

1 with patches. And further, it was dark because of the  
2 darkness of the night.

3 THE INTERPRETER: Let me ask her a question.

4 [Interpreter questions in Spanish.]

5 THE INTERPRETER: I'm asking what these  
6 patches are.

7 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Okay.

8 MRS. DE CERNA: This is a material that they  
9 wore, it is sort of a uniform.

10 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Camouflage suit?

11 MRS. DE CERNA: That's it. That's a word  
12 that I can't remember.

13 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Okay.

14 MRS. DE CERNA: After I was looking at them I  
15 heard the Father talking inside. He wasn't shouting,  
16 but he was speaking in a loud voice. It was Padre  
17 Nacho, the one who was talking. And the two words that  
18 I was hearing was "injustice" and "carroña."

19 MR. GREATHEAD: "Caroña" means carrion,  
20 literally, and it is used in Castillian dialects as an  
21 epithet. And we have translated it as meaning  
22 abomination. You know, <sup>n</sup>this is an injustice, this is

1 an abomination.

2 THE INTERPRETER: Right.

3 MRS. DE CERNA: And a little while after I  
4 was hearing these voices, and those words were the ones  
5 that I heard clearly. The other voices, there were  
6 other voices but they were not loud and I couldn't hear  
7 exactly what they said.

8 I heard the voices. I distinguished the  
9 voice of the Father. I had heard that voice many  
10 years, because I had been working for them. These men  
11 went in there. Father didn't talk any more. And the  
12 shooting increased. And then there was a silence, a  
13 silence like when the night goes. And then I felt like  
14 my legs didn't carry me any more. And I went to the  
15 room where the mattresses were.

16 And sitting there I was hearing that they  
17 were dragging furniture along, that they were dragging  
18 things. And it was as if some china has been broken,  
19 or glass, or something they were pushing. And having  
20 heard what had happened, I remained seated. And what  
21 was I going to do? I was going back to sleep, or to  
22 lie down. I was going to lie down. But when I arrived

1 to the room, I felt that my legs were not carrying me  
2 any more and that my body was frozen. I saw him [Jorge]  
3 <sup>looking</sup> through a little bit of the window, because we had  
4 closed the curtains when we went into that room.

5 And I was going to look there, but then I  
6 felt my body completely frozen. And he remained there,  
7 but I sat down. And it was a matter of a few seconds,  
8 and then he went down on his mattress, which was close  
9 to the wall over there. The girl, our child, was in  
10 the middle, and I was on the other side, on this wall  
11 of the same room.

12 And when I saw him, that he was looking, and  
13 very quickly he then went down and he lay down on his  
14 mattress and I did the same thing on my side.

15 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All the time you are  
16 talking about "he," you are talking about her husband,  
17 Jorge?

18 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes, of course, my husband.  
19 And going very quietly so that the mattress wouldn't  
20 make any noise, because we were scared. We were sort  
21 of lying down, getting sort of comfortable, when the  
22 first bomb, and then there was a second bomb that went



1 off.

2 MRS. DE CERNA: We did not see that and to  
3 this moment we don't know where it happened. What we  
4 did feel is that the room was shaking.

5 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Now, when you saw these  
6 five men at the gate, was that the gate outside of  
7 Father Nacho's room, or was that the front gate?

8 MRS. DE CERNA: Although I was working at  
9 UCA, at the university, I never had the pleasure to  
10 visit personally the new residence, because what they  
11 had was a new residence. I arrived with Father Nacho  
12 in the afternoon, or evening. That was that evening  
13 when I arrived with Father Nacho where he said that he  
14 was going to put me up in the residence and that he was  
15 going to lend me the two mattresses, but I hadn't  
16 looked through the whole house, only through that small  
17 part there.

18 MR. GREATHEAD: If you would like, I can  
19 explain just briefly the layout of the house.

20 The house, House 16 that Lucia and Jorge and  
21 Geraldina were in that night, is about 40 or 50 meters  
22 away from the new Jesuit residence. That is sort of a

1 L-shaped building, and at one end there is a chapel.

2 Above the chapel there is a road that leads  
3 to an entrance to the UCA. And then along the edge of  
4 the building there is a covered walkway that has a gate  
5 at one end and leads to the L-shaped area on the other  
6 end. The bottom part of the L, which is here on the  
7 side, is where the actual rooms that the various Jesuit  
8 priests who lived in the pastoral center used for  
9 sleeping quarters. Along this covered walkway, it  
10 opens on to various service rooms.

11 In the first of those rooms, closest to the  
12 gate where Lucia says she saw the five men, is the room  
13 in which the cook and her 15 year old daughter were  
14 sleeping. The bodies of the priests were found on a  
15 law<sup>n</sup>-four of them were found on a lawn at the other  
16 end, two of them had been brought back their bedrooms.

17 The window that Lucia was looking from did  
18 not have a view of the actual residence because there  
19 were bushes and a wall that obscured it. And all she  
20 could see was part of the covered walkway and the iron  
21 gate at one end that blocked the path that ran around  
22 the chapel through the walkway into the Jesuits' normal

1 residence. That gate is normally closed and locked.

2 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: So that's where she saw  
3 the soldiers, at that gate?

4 MR. GREATHEAD: Exactly.

5 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: And not outside of Father  
6 Nacho's residence?

7 MR. GREATHEAD: No.

8 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Did you read the report of  
9 the Lawyers Committee?

10 MRS. DE CERNA: No.

11 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Was it explained to you?  
12 Father, do you refer to it as the Lawyers  
13 Report.

14 FATHER TIPTON: We call it the Lawyers  
15 Report, yes.

16 MRS. DE CERNA: Because since it is written  
17 in English, we can't understand it.

18 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Was it explained to her?  
19 Was it read to her?

20 MRS. DE CERNA: Look, maybe they explained it  
21 to us, but I don't remember.

22 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Well, I'm just trying to

1 see if she agrees with the report. I'm just trying to  
2 establish that.

3 MRS. DE CERNA: Well, I would say yes,  
4 because these are honorable people.

5 MR. GREATHEAD: She has not read the report,  
6 and the report, which was just completed last Friday  
7 and given to Father Tipton then, hasn't really been  
8 read to her in detail.

9 FATHER TIPTON: Congressman, T.J. did explain  
10 it to her. He didn't go word for word, but she knew  
11 about it.

12 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. Well, what I  
13 wanted to get on the record is if she read the report  
14 and if she agrees with it and does she want to change  
15 anything.

16 MR. GREATHEAD: You might ask her if she had  
17 been interviewed by me and related to me both her  
18 experiences in Salvador and her experiences in the  
19 United States.

20 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Yes, but that still  
21 doesn't put that in the report.

22 MR. MURTHA: Mr. Chairman, you asked her if

1 she had seen the soldiers. Did she come to the  
2 conclusion they were soldiers?

3 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: No. All right. I'll ask  
4 the ask the question.

5 When she saw those people in the camouflage  
6 suit, did she say they were soldiers?

7 MRS. DE CERNA: I thought so, because the  
8 authority is the only people, they are the only people  
9 who are allowed to go and do searches, perform  
10 searches.

11 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: But did she see any  
12 insignia or any badges or anything that would make her  
13 believe that they were soldiers, any sergeant stripes  
14 or lieutenant bars?

15 MRS. DE CERNA: I didn't see any insignia or  
16 badges. What I saw were something like this. It was  
17 dark.

18 MR. GREATHEAD: She is referring to a cap.

19 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: A visored cap?

20 MRS. DE CERNA: We call them "<sup>c</sup>achuchas." It  
21 is a cap.

22 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: She couldn't see anybody's

1 face that she could identify?

2 MRS. DE CERNA: No. It was at a distance.  
3 There was a long distance there at night and I  
4 couldn't.

5 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right.

6 MR. CROCKETT: Could we find out what the  
7 distance was between her and these men that she saw?

8 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: I think she stated it was  
9 50 meters.

10 MR. CROCKETT: And what the lighting  
11 conditions were?

12 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: She said there was no  
13 lighting, very dark.

14 MR. CROCKETT: But I heard someone say you  
15 had a walkway under a shed, and this gate was at the  
16 end of that walkway.

17 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Right. Ask her if there  
18 was any lighting at all around the gate?

19 MRS. DE CERNA: There was no light.

20 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Yes, there were no lights.  
21 She testified to that. There were no lights.

22 MR. HOYER: Was there a moon?

1 MRS. DE CERNA: It was just the moon.

2 MR. BONIOR: Was it a full moon?

3 MRS. DE CERNA: Almost full moon.

4 MR. MCHUGH: Mr. Chairman, just  
5 specifically--I'm sure the answer is no--but she could  
6 not identify or define facial characteristics?

7 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: She said no.

8 MR. CROCKETT: Did these men have anything in  
9 their hands, like guns, or any other object?

10 MRS. DE CERNA: They had a rifle in their  
11 hand. The only thing that I can testify, and because I  
12 saw it, is that they had a rifle in their hand. And to  
13 tell you exactly what kind of a rifle, I'm not able to  
14 tell you. I don't understand anything about pistols or  
15 rifles or revolvers.

16 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Now, if it's all right  
17 with you, I'm going to move to Miami, unless anybody  
18 wants to ask any more questions.

19 MR. MCHUGH: Did she see anyone else who  
20 lived in the house, or the residence, other than Father  
21 Nacho?

22 MRS. DE CERNA: I didn't see him. I didn't

1 see him, but I heard from Father Nacho that they had  
2 sent them--the cook, the wife of one of the people, the  
3 guardians there.

4 MR. GREATHEAD: Night watchmen.

5 THE INTERPRETER: Or watchmen.

6 MRS. DE CERNA: But I don't know which  
7 watchman, and I don't know what woman they are talking  
8 about.

9 MR. MCHUGH: Well, there was a--if I  
10 may--there was housekeeper and her daughter who were  
11 living in this area and who were killed.

12 Did she see them or know where they were?

13 MRS. DE CERNA: I saw them him after the  
14 curfew was stopped, at six o'clock in the morning. And  
15 since we were in House 16 and then there is a door that  
16 leads to House 15, and then there is a passageway that  
17 then eventually goes to the UCA. And I woke up before  
18 six o'clock in the morning, because I had a nightmare  
19 and I dreamt that I saw Father Nacho under the door, or  
20 on the door sill, laughing under the door there where  
21 we were sleeping. But that was a nightmare I was  
22 having.



1                   CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY:  When did she first know  
2 that these priests were killed?

3                   MRS. DE CERNA:  We got up.  We went to the  
4 room.  My husband and I went to the room where we had  
5 arrived, which also was empty.  And there was a door  
6 that was open that the day before Father Nacho had  
7 opened with a key so that I could go and get the two  
8 mattresses out.

9                   And after that I went into the bathroom.  And  
10 he went to the room that had been lent to us.  And  
11 after awhile I got out and I saw that my husband was  
12 talking to somebody on the other side.  And I asked  
13 him, listen, who are they?  Who are they?

14                   And then I saw them.  They were the watchmen,  
15 and I said hello.  And because I know them, because  
16 they worked for the university also.  They were  
17 talking.  They were talking about this, but in very few  
18 words.  They just told him--I heard that they told him  
19 that there were some bundles somewhere.

20                   And I combed myself and I told him, look,  
21 let's go, let's go and see.  And we went.  And we went  
22 to the residence.  And that door was open, that one

1 that goes to the chapel.

2 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: At this time was she  
3 afraid that she may bump into soldiers?

4 MRS. DE CERNA: No. Because the curfew was  
5 other.

6 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: What time was this now?

7 MRS. DE CERNA: Six o'clock in the morning.

8 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: So the curfew was over at  
9 six o'clock?

10 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes.

11 MR. BONIOR: But it was still dark?

12 MRS. DE CERNA: No, it was light. And when  
13 they were talking about the bundles that the watchmen  
14 were talking about, I had told my husband, look, let's  
15 hurry up, let's go.

16 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Why was she so excited  
17 about looking at bundles?

18 MRS. DE CERNA: You know, after having seen  
19 what I saw that night I was afraid. I was curious, and  
20 I wanted to know, and I was afraid what might have  
21 happened in the house that night.

22 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Did she think these

1 bundles might have been dead people?

2 MRS. DE CERNA: No, until that time I didn't  
3 imagine that they could be dead people.

4 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Well, then again, why  
5 would she want to run from the house at six o'clock in  
6 the morning to look at some bundles some workmen said  
7 that they saw?

8 MRS. DE CERNA: You know, I was upset. How  
9 can I tell you? I was anxious. When one is anxious  
10 like that. We went with my husband and my daughter,  
11 and in the first room I was scared because there were  
12 two women in there. The only thing I saw is one had a  
13 broken leg. And in the other room I saw a big table  
14 with chairs. And there next to it was a little small  
15 room where there was some furniture and everything was  
16 open there.

17 And then I looked up on the hill, up where  
18 the steps were. I saw the blue shirt that Father Nacho  
19 had been wearing the night, the evening before.

20 And I said, look, I told my husband, look at  
21 that. That looks like Father Nacho. And then my  
22 husband told me, look, take the little girl here back,

1 because a little girl shouldn't be seeing these things,  
2 because she is going to have a shock. And then I  
3 encountered one of the watchmen, who then went with my  
4 husband to see what they found.

5 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Did you report this to  
6 somebody? Did she report these murders, or killings?

7 MRS. DE CERNA: I waited for them there at  
8 the door, at the open door, at the door where the  
9 chapel is. And I told him, look, come out.

10 And then again we went to the House 15, and  
11 we went into House 16. And then I told him, look, I'm  
12 going to go and tell this to the Fathers. I am going  
13 to go and tell it to Father <sup>Ibis</sup> ~~Ides~~. And that is about  
14 one block away from House 16.

15 I took my little bag with the documents, with  
16 the ID, and I went out on to the street. And when I  
17 rang at the gate, the gate was opened by Father  
18 Pedrosa.

19 He opened the door of the house, the entrance  
20 there. I said, Father, good morning. And he said,  
21 Lucia, how are you.

22 I told him, look, there is something terrible

1 has happened. I'm coming from the house back there.  
2 Don't you know that I was allowed to stay here, that  
3 the Father allowed me to stay yesterday? And there I  
4 was already on the sill of the door of the priest. And  
5 there was Father <sup>Ibis,</sup> Estrada and <sup>Saenz,</sup> ~~Synes~~. And they  
6 heard what I said, and I told him, look, the shooting  
7 yesterday, it was inside the house. Go. You ought to  
8 go. Go and see the priests over there.

9 I told him look, they are dead, because he  
10 had already told me what he had seen there.

11 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Who did she actually see  
12 that was dead?

13 MRS. DE CERNA: Father Nacho.

14 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: That's the only one?

15 MRS. DE CERNA: Because of the distance at  
16 which I had remained.

17 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Right.

18 MR. GREATHEAD: Well, there was actually the  
19 two women that she initially saw that she described as  
20 having a broken leg..

21 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes, you could see that the  
22 leg was completely destroyed.

1 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Yes, but they were dead?

2 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes. I didn't know who they  
3 were.

4 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Did her husband see the  
5 other dead priests at that time?

6 MRS. DE CERNA: He and a watchman, yes,  
7 because they went up there.

8 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: So when she left she knew  
9 that all those priests were dead then?

10 MRS. DE CERNA: No, he told me, they have  
11 killed all the priests.

12 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: So she knew that before  
13 she went to this other priest's house?

14 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes, because he had told me,  
15 my husband had told it to me.

16 And then one of the priests, and I don't know  
17 which one, asked me, what about Segundo, and he was  
18 mentioning Father Segundo Montez<sup>A</sup>. I told him, I don't  
19 know, because I haven't seen him.

20 And then at that time this Provincial Father  
21 was coming and he was putting on his shirt. He was  
22 coming from where he sleeps. They took the keys. He

1 opened the gate and left with another priest. And I  
2 remember then that there was a rather small man there  
3 under the door there on the sill.

4 And I remember there was this man of small  
5 stature, and I had such an appreciation for the priests  
6 that I knew that I didn't pay attention to this man, to  
7 this small man. I just remember he had some denim  
8 cloth trousers on. And then he said, look, it was a  
9 miracle that I was saved, because my wife and my  
10 daughter have died.

11 And when that was going on Father Estrada  
12 told me, look, we cannot keep you any longer, Lucia,  
13 because we are in danger and it is better for you to  
14 leave.

15 And I went to the House 16, following my  
16 husband, and there he was in sort of a garage where  
17 they keep the car.

18 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: She went back to 16?

19 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes, I returned to 16.

20 And I told him look, we have to leave here  
21 because they cannot put us up any longer here. Let's  
22 take all the things out.

1 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Did anybody tell her to  
2 report this crime, since she was obviously the first  
3 one on the scene?

4 MRS. DE CERNA: Nobody told me to report it.  
5 Nobody told me.

6 MR. GREATHEAD: Let me just interrupt. It  
7 was Lucia's reaction to report it to the priests who, I  
8 think she correctly assumed, would take the necessary  
9 steps. It is not normal for an average Salvadoran to  
10 report a dead body in El Salvador.

11 THE INTERPRETER: And she said, "My first  
12 reaction was to go and tell it to the priests. We  
13 thought they were all one brotherhood."

14 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Okay. All right. So then  
15 at some stage you decided to report it to somebody else  
16 besides the priests?

17 MRS. DE CERNA: I didn't do it. I didn't  
18 report it. The only thing I did was to take out the  
19 mattresses that Father had lent me, and my clothing.

20 MR. GREATHEAD: If you want to hear about  
21 this we could jump ahead to the next Monday when she  
22 returned to the UCA to go to work.



1 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. The only  
2 reason is that I know that you have got an appointment,  
3 and I'm sure that members have got other places to go.

4 What I'd like to do--the story is a very  
5 interesting story, but we just have so much time.

6 MR. GREATHEAD: Let me just--she ultimately  
7 told the director to tell--

8 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. Ms. Hernandez?

9 MR. GREATHEAD: Right.

10 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: When did she meet her?

11 MR. GREATHEAD: The following Monday at the  
12 Provincial's home, <sup>when</sup> and she returned to the UCA to work.

13 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: When she was going back to  
14 work?

15 MR. GREATHEAD: She was going back to work.  
16 Father Tojeira encountered her and said, I want you to  
17 speak to this woman, you can speak to her in  
18 confidence. It was Maria Julio<sup>a</sup> Hernandez, the Director  
19 of Tutel<sup>a</sup> Legal, who arranged for her to go, after  
20 hearing the story, to get asylum in the Spanish  
21 Embassy, where she gave her declaration to the  
22 Salvadoran judge.

1 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Why did she choose the  
2 Spanish Embassy.

3 MR. GREATHEAD: She did not choose anything.  
4 ~~There~~ <sup>This</sup> was apparently arranged by Tutel<sup>o</sup> Legal and the  
5 Archbishop. Lucia just followed the instructions that  
6 she was given as to where to go.

7 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Okay. Is there any  
8 objection if I move ahead to get her leaving the  
9 country?

10 MR. MCHUGH: May I ask one quick question?

11 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Sure enough.

12 MR. MCHUGH: When she arrived at the  
13 university before the killings, was the university  
14 under military control? Did she have to pass through  
15 some military people to get where she was going?

16 MRS. DE CERNA: The university was closed  
17 because of the war. I went through the gate of the  
18 university, because it is a street called Cantab<sup>v</sup>lico,  
19 where the two residences of the priests are. And I  
20 hadn't realized that everything was empty there, that  
21 nobody was there, until I knocked and the Father  
22 opened.

1 MR. GREATHEAD: Ask her whether before  
2 arriving at the university she had to pass by military  
3 units of any kind?

4 MRS. DE CERNA: No, that day there were no  
5 military, no soldiers, as I call them. In the morning  
6 when we left with our belongings it was with soldiers  
7 there.

8 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. So  
9 Ms. Hernandez asked you to go to the Spanish Embassy?

10 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes. After I talked to her  
11 she decided that, because I didn't know it.

12 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. How did you  
13 decide to come to the United States? I understand  
14 France and Spain both offered you asylum.

15 MRS. DE CERNA: Because they said that we  
16 were going to make a stop in Miami, and looking at the  
17 map, that doesn't look as far away from El Salvador if  
18 we once decide to go back.

19 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: So she picked Miami  
20 because it was closer?

21 MRS. DE CERNA: It is closer to El Salvador  
22 if we want to go back some day

1 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: When she was flying back  
2 to Miami on the plane did anybody question her about  
3 what she saw?

4 MRS. DE CERNA: There was a journalist. He  
5 said he was French, but since these are rather  
6 confidential things I was not going to tell it to just  
7 anyone.

8 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Did she talk to anyone on  
9 the plane?

10 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes. I was talking general  
11 things without any importance. And when the subject  
12 was brushed a bit closer and the Minister of France was  
13 in there. And I knew that he was a very respectable  
14 man. And then I asked him for the permission if I  
15 could tell this man that was traveling with him, if I  
16 could tell him about things that I had declared. And  
17 the Minister said no, no.

18 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Did she have any  
19 conversation or does she know the name Richard  
20 Chidester?

21 MRS. DE CERNA: They call him Mister?

22 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: The American that was on

1 the plane.

2 MRS. DE CERNA: Mr. Richard. When we were on  
3 the plane I didn't know that he was called  
4 "Mr. Richard," but in those days when we stayed in a  
5 hotel room, that's when I learned.

6 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: When you were in the hotel  
7 room, did you talk to Mr. Richard then?

8 MRS. DE CERNA: In a way. He used to come  
9 and ask what we wanted to eat, because we were eating  
10 in the room.

11 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Okay.

12 MRS. DE CERNA: And in the morning we used to  
13 go to the breakfast room of the hotel, but we always  
14 went with that Mister.

15 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. Did  
16 Mr. Richard ever ask her anything about what she saw  
17 that night in El Salvador?

18 MRS. DE CERNA: More or less he knew it  
19 already.

20 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: So he didn't ask her  
21 anything about it?

22 MRS. DE CERNA: No, personally he didn't ask

1 anything.

2 MR. MURTHA: Joe, when did she appear on TV,  
3 I mean, her picture was on TV?

4 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: We have some information  
5 that she appeared on international TV. When did they  
6 take those pictures?

7 MRS. DE CERNA: Maybe it was yesterday.

8 MR. GREATHEAD: I don't think she is aware of  
9 that.

10 FATHER TIPTON: She is not aware of that,  
11 Congressman.

12 MR. GREATHEAD: It was when she was  
13 disembarking from the French government aircraft in  
14 Miami that apparently it was videotaped.

15 FATHER TIPTON: Well no, there actually was a  
16 French photographer on board the plane that was taking  
17 photographs. Chidester told he went and tried to stop  
18 the guy and the Minister says, oh, no, there is no  
19 problem, this is for. It turns out that it was sold to  
20 CNN and CBS by this French guy that was on the plane.  
21 That's how it got out.

22 MR. MCCLOSKEY: It appeared to be at the

1 airport in El Salvador, and he followed her right into  
2 the plane in a very close facial coverage.

3 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Okay.

4 MRS. DE CERNA: I don't know anything about  
5 that.

6 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: You were interviewed--she  
7 was interrogated by three men?

8 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Did you know any of these  
10 men?

11 MRS. DE CERNA: Do you mean the interrogatory  
12 of FBI?

13 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Yes.

14 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes, they interrogated me.  
15 They questioned me.

16 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: You were questioned by  
17 Lt. Col. Jorge Rivas Mejia?

18 MRS. DE CERNA: On Tuesday.

19 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: How was he introduced to  
20 you first?

21 MRS. DE CERNA: Well, they didn't really  
22 introduce him to me. They didn't do it.

1 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Was he dressed in military  
2 uniform or civilian clothes?

3 MRS. DE CERNA: Civilian clothes.

4 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Did they introduce him as  
5 "doctor"?

6 MRS. DE CERNA: Doctor.

7 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: They introduced him as  
8 "doctor"?

9 MRS. DE CERNA: Doctor. But after Tuesday  
10 where we went to picking him up at the hotel, that was  
11 not the hotel where we had stayed.

12 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Right.

13 MRS. DE CERNA: That was on Tuesday.

14 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Right.

15 MRS. DE CERNA: But on Monday I had already  
16 been questioned. It was the same story, six o'clock in  
17 the morning when I went up there.

18 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. She was first  
19 questioned by two FBI men without the doctor being  
20 present; is that so?

21 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes. And then there was  
22 another interview in the hotel room that were other



1 people, not the FBI, and I don't know if it was on  
2 Friday or Saturday.

3 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. Just the first  
4 interview we are talking about with just the two FBI  
5 people.

6 MRS. DE CERNA: That was on Friday, or  
7 Saturday, following the day we had arrived to Miami.

8 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: How long was that  
9 interview?

10 MR. GREATHEAD: Excuse me. She was  
11 interviewed briefly in her hotel room by either Sanchez  
12 or Rivero. The first formal interview was on Monday.  
13 And I think if you ask her about the interview on  
14 Monday, to describe that, she will.

15 MR. OBEY: Wait, I'm confused there. When  
16 was the first time she was interviewed by anybody?

17 MR. GREATHEAD: Well, apparently over the  
18 weekend in her hotel room there were some informal  
19 questioning.

20 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: By the two FBI people?

21 MR. MURTHA: Let's let her answer.

22 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: That's what I want.

1 MR. GREATHEAD: All right. I didn't want her  
2 to be confused about the first day.

3 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Well, we'll take it day by  
4 day.

5 The first day that she was interviewed in the  
6 hotel room by the two FBI people?

7 MRS. DE CERNA: Was it Monday or Saturday?  
8 There are so many days.

9 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Just the first interview,  
10 is all I'm interested in.

11 Was it just the two FBI people at that time?

12 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: That was Sanchez and  
14 Rivero?

15 MRS. DE CERNA: They came in through the room  
16 of the Mister.

17 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Through what room?

18 MRS. DE CERNA: Of the Mister.

19 MR. GREATHEAD: When she says "mister," she's  
20 referring to Richard Chidester.

21 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Okay. They came from his  
22 room?

1 MRS. DE CERNA: Because our room was divided  
2 by just a door.

3 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. It was  
4 adjoining rooms. Okay.

5 Tell me, did you tell them at that time the  
6 same story you told us here?

7 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes, and it is the same thing  
8 I declared over there.

9 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: How did they treat her?

10 MRS. DE CERNA: Like any well-mannered person  
11 who introduced themselves and said, I am so and so.

12 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: They were polite?

13 MRS. DE CERNA: Well, at first you don't  
14 catch the name exactly.

15 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. But they  
16 didn't challenge what you were saying, they just asked  
17 you questions and let you answer them in your own  
18 words?

19 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes. They just listened to  
20 me, yes.

21 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. When was the  
22 second time you spoke to these people?

1 MRS. DE CERNA: Monday.

2 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Who was present at that  
3 time?

4 MRS. DE CERNA: The two people, the two men,

5 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: The same two people.

6 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: What did they question you  
8 about that day?

9 MRS. DE CERNA: The same, because in the  
10 hotel the interview was very short. Because they asked  
11 about what I had seen over there.

12 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. Did they have  
13 a tape recorder going while they were talking to her?

14 MRS. DE CERNA: Monday, I didn't pay any  
15 attention it--I didn't notice if they had one or not.  
16 I didn't pay any attention.

17 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: So there wasn't a  
18 polygraph machine there either at that time?

19 MRS. DE CERNA: That was on Wednesday.

20 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Okay. What was the next  
21 time you talked to these men?

22 MRS. DE CERNA: The next day, Tuesday

1 afternoon.

2 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: And there were just two of  
3 them?

4 MRS. DE CERNA: That's where the doctor--

5 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: That's where the doctor  
6 came in. And that's when you first met the doctor?

7 MRS. DE CERNA: We had picked him up in the  
8 morning.

9 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. Now, what kind  
10 of questions did they ask that day?

11 MRS. DE CERNA: That I should start talking  
12 and telling the story. That I should start telling.  
13 And that afternoon, since they had interrogated my  
14 husband in the morning, I was questioned about three  
15 o'clock in the afternoon.

16 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: How long were you  
17 questioned for?

18 MRS. DE CERNA: Very short.

19 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Was it the same questions  
20 that you had before?

21 MRS. DE CERNA: Well, there it was not  
22 questions that they asked, but they just told me to

1 tell my story, just talk, talk, converse.

2 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. And she told  
3 her story?

4 MRS. DE CERNA: Well, I told it when I  
5 arrived to the hotel. I told it on Monday, and I told  
6 it on Tuesday when they asked me

7 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: And it was all the same  
8 story?

9 MRS. DE CERNA: The same story.

10 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Okay.

11 MRS. DE CERNA: On Tuesday they let me talk  
12 very little. And we had to wait for them for a long  
13 time, so by 4:15 we were out. It was a short session.

14 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Okay. when was the next  
15 time you talked to them?

16 MRS. DE CERNA: The next day, Wednesday.

17 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Is this the day they put  
18 the machine on her?

19 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Is this the first day?

21 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Did the questions of the

1 FBI change at all?

2 MR. GREATHEAD: She misunderstood this  
3 question.

4 MRS. DE CERNA: It was different because of  
5 the pressure. They scared me, and I have hypertension  
6 and I'm very excitable, I suppose. And when, for  
7 instance, we are talking like this and they suddenly  
8 open a door, I get scared.

9 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. Well, what  
10 kind of questions were they asking that she would get  
11 scared that day that she wasn't scared the three  
12 previous days?

13 MR. GREATHEAD: Well, wait a minute. I don't  
14 think she testified that she wasn't scared the three  
15 previous days.

16 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Okay.

17 THE INTERPRETER: Should I ask her the  
18 question?

19 MR. GREATHEAD: I don't want you to assume  
20 something that I don't believe was there.

21 MR. MCCLOSKEY: I think she is basically  
22 testifying that all the questions were proper in

1 context.

2 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Okay. Let's go.

3 The questions on this day, were they  
4 different than the questions the two or three previous  
5 days?

6 MRS. DE CERNA: I started talking again.  
7 That I should start telling what happened from the  
8 moment I left Soyapango. And we arrived to the point  
9 where I said that we had reached the downtown area, the  
10 center. And then they asked questions that I hadn't  
11 said.

12 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: I don't understand.

13 MRS. DE CERNA: They asked me if I was a spy  
14 of the priests.

15 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Who asked this question?

16 MRS. DE CERNA: I remember that it was a  
17 colonel who asked it.

18 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Okay. And what other  
19 questions did they ask that were different than before?

20 MRS. DE CERNA: And then they asked some  
21 other questions which I don't remember exactly right  
22 now.



1 MR. MCCLOSKEY: Did any of them refer to FMLN  
2 ties or working for the insurrection?

3 MRS. DE CERNA: No. Other things, but I just  
4 don't remember them. But they were--they were  
5 disagreeable questions for me.

6 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: This is the first time  
7 that she had the machine on?

8 MRS. DE CERNA: No. When we were talking  
9 like that, Sanchez opened the door and he stamped his  
10 foot and he scared me.

11 And he asked me, "Estrada, is he a guerrilla  
12 or isn't he a guerrilla?"

13 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Who? What was the name?

14 MRS. DE CERNA: Estrada.

15 MR. GREATHEAD: Estrada.

16 FATHER TIPTON: One of the Jesuit fathers in  
17 El Salvador.

18 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Okay. He asked if he was  
19 a guerrilla?

20 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes. I told him, no, sir.  
21 They are professors of the university, UCA. And for me  
22 they are very kind people. And then I felt great fear.

1 I can't even tell you about it, because I just had  
2 become scared of them.

3 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: At the same time they were  
4 giving you the exam, did they have the tape recorder  
5 going?

6 MRS. DE CERNA: When they scared me, when  
7 they started making another question, asked another  
8 question about this matter, that what had I seen at  
9 that window, that I had already mentioned to them an  
10 infinite number of times. Then I had become scared of  
11 these men. I didn't have any confidence any more.

12 And then I said, no, sir, I don't know  
13 anything. Don't ask me any more questions, I don't  
14 know anything.

15 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Mr. Obey.

16 MR. OBEY: You say you became scared and you  
17 had no confidence in them. When did that happen? When  
18 did your feelings change about them?

19 MRS. DE CERNA: From that Tuesday when they  
20 interrogated him <sup>[Jorge]</sup> from about 8:30 in the morning to 2:30  
21 in the afternoon, and that he came out shaking.

22 MR. OBEY: Why were you shaking? What

1 happened?

2 MR. DE CERNA: [Interpreted from Spanish.]  
3 The interrogations were very heavy on me, or were very  
4 demanding on me, stressful on me. The questions they  
5 asked is that how she was making money there where she  
6 was working, How was she working there?

7 That who had paid us to say what we were  
8 saying? Who had forced us to say what we were saying?

9 MR. OBEY: Who asked that question? Was that  
10 the FBI people or the doctor?

11 MR. DE CERNA: FBI.

12 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Sanchez?

13 MR. DE CERNA: Sanchez, yes. Detective  
14 Sanchez, yes. Because he asked me--under great  
15 pressure he asked me why on earth my wife would have  
16 gone to look through the window in the other room and I  
17 wouldn't have done it, and I would have allowed her to  
18 do this, I being a man.

19 And he said, either you are effeminate, and I  
20 don't believe that you are effeminate because you have  
21 a beard and you have sideburns.

22 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Again, was this Sanchez?

1 MR. DE CERNA: Sanchez, yes. That's the way  
2 he told it. Because he didn't believe that my wife had  
3 been looking through the window, but until that time I  
4 hadn't said that I had been looking through that window  
5 in our room.

6 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Why hadn't he said that he  
7 had been looking through the window in his room?

8 MR. DE CERNA: In El Salvador I didn't  
9 declare--I did not say that I had seen it, because we  
10 had decided among us two here that she should be the  
11 one who was going to make the declarations.

12 MR. OBEY: Why was that?

13 MR. DE CERNA: Because in our very modest way  
14 we thought that what she had seen was interesting and  
15 what I had seen would not be interesting, and that  
16 there might be other people that could contribute  
17 something of interest to this matter.

18 MR. MURTHA: What did he see?

19 MR. DE CERNA: When she was coming back from  
20 the room that she was in, and came back to our room,  
21 she didn't tell you at what time she had come back, but  
22 it was about one o'clock, or a little bit after one

1 o'clock in the morning.

2 From the window where I was looking I could  
3 not see--I couldn't observe to where she was able to  
4 observe from the other room. When I was here, and I  
5 only moved a part of the curtain that was covering the  
6 window and the window was partly open. And that's--we  
7 had it a little bit open during the night for the  
8 ventilation of the room.

9 MR. MURTHA: So he was looking through  
10 another window and didn't see anything, and this is the  
11 reason he decided not to say anything?

12 MR. DE CERNA: No. When she was entering the  
13 room I didn't see her. I heard her steps in the room,  
14 and I was looking through the window at that moment,  
15 and I saw there were seven or eight men walking, taking  
16 long steps. All these men that I saw through that  
17 little bit that I was looking out on, they were coming  
18 from the residence of the priests, and they were going  
19 towards the west, going towards those woods that I was  
20 mentioning before.

21 They all had the same uniform. It was dark.  
22 You could see--it was dark--because of the scarce light

1 of the moon. They had rifles and they had caps on.

2 THE INTERPRETER: And he makes this movement.

3 [Demonstrating.]

4 MR. DE CERNA: And that's what I saw. And  
5 then I tried to go down and lie down on the mattress  
6 that I had. And I had just gotten off the mattress  
7 just to open a little bit to see what I saw.

8 MR. MURTHA: Could you recognize any of them?

9 MR. DE CERNA: The face of none, no. Not  
10 one. The kind of weapon, neither, no.

11 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Can I ask, why did she  
12 look out a window in another room, since they were both  
13 sleeping on the same mattress?

14 MRS. DE CERNA: On the same mattress did you  
15 say?

16 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Were they sleeping on the  
17 same mattress?

18 MR. DE CERNA: No. It was in the same room,  
19 but on different mattresses.

20 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. They were both  
21 in the same room?

22 MR. DE CERNA: The three of us.

1 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Did she leave that room to  
2 go to another room to look out the window?

3 MR. DE CERNA: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Well, let me ask her.

5 Why didn't she just look out the window in  
6 her room? Why did she go to another room?

7 MRS. DE CERNA: Because we have a certain  
8 respect for each other, and if he is sleeping I'm never  
9 going to step over him.

10 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Even if there's machine  
11 guns going off?

12 MRS. DE CERNA: The house was full, and the  
13 shooting was very strong.

14 MR. MURTHA: Let me go back and ask one  
15 question.

16 MR. GREATHEAD: Let me interject something.  
17 The other room had a better view of the pastoral center  
18 than the room that they were sleeping in.

19 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Well then, why didn't he  
20 look out the room with the better view, then?

21 MR. GREATHEAD: Because he didn't want to get  
22 out of bed because their daughter was sleeping between

1 them and they were deathly afraid that she would wake  
2 up and cry out and call attention to them. If you ask  
3 him that, he'll tell you.

4 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Okay. John Murtha.

5 MR. MURTHA: Your wife said that she thought  
6 they were soldiers because earlier they had been  
7 searching the place.

8 Could you tell if these were soldiers or in  
9 any way identify who they might be?

10 MR. DE CERNA: Well, I saw people in uniform,  
11 in uniform with rifles, in uniform and all with the  
12 same cap. And with some belts coming down like this.  
13 And that's what I was able to see in the distance. I  
14 couldn't identify the rifles. I wouldn't be able to  
15 because of the distance.

16 MR. MURTHA: Did you think they were  
17 soldiers?

18 MR. DE CERNA: At the beginning I thought so,  
19 for one reason. That area had been controlled by the  
20 military from earlier that day. And there was a curfew  
21 starting at six o'clock in the afternoon, and no person  
22 was able to circulate there any more.



1 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: But I think the record  
2 shows that they never said they were soldiers, they  
3 said they thought they could have been soldiers.

4 MR. MURTHA: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Tell me, were you  
6 threatened if you didn't tell the truth that you would  
7 be sent back to Salvador?

8 MRS. DE CERNA: When I changed version, I did  
9 change the version, it was because I had been pressured  
10 and because I was desperate.

11 MR. OBEY: When did she change the version?

12 MRS. DE CERNA: On Wednesday.

13 MR. OBEY: During the polygraph?

14 MRS. DE CERNA: No.

15 MR. OBEY: Or before?

16 MRS. DE CERNA: No. I didn't know that that  
17 machine existed. I finished the version, and they told  
18 me to tell the story since I left Soyapango. And I  
19 invented whatever I was able to invent, because I  
20 didn't want to be bothered any more.

21 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Well, she didn't want to  
22 be bothered. Was she afraid that they may send her

1 back because they didn't believe her?

2 MRS. DE CERNA: No. Not afraid, no. It  
3 wasn't fear.

4 MR. MCCLOSKEY: Mr. Chairman, could she state  
5 in her own words why she changed her story, and at any  
6 point did she receive any threats or any frightening  
7 statements from anyone?

8 MRS. DE CERNA: I was scared since Tuesday,  
9 that he, being a man, had come out shaking. And he  
10 being my husband, I know him very well. And it isn't  
11 too easy to scare a man.

12 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Well, did she change her  
13 story because she thought that they would be treated  
14 better, or was she afraid that something would happen  
15 to her husband unless she changed her story?

16 MRS. DE CERNA: No. I changed my story so  
17 that they would not continue questioning me like they  
18 had been doing before, because everything I told them  
19 they didn't believe it.

20 MR. GREATHEAD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to  
21 interject something here. It may be lost on the  
22 members of this committee, but she is describing

1 Wednesday, the third day of what in effect was a  
2 custodial incommunicado interrogation. These two  
3 people had been taken every morning, Monday, Tuesday,  
4 Wednesday morning, to an FBI office.

5 One would first be questioned while the other  
6 remained in a room taking care of four year old  
7 Geraldina, who was still wearing the clothing that she  
8 had on when she left Salvador. It was as custodial as  
9 any interrogation could be of any incarcerated person.  
10 Every night they were taken back at 5:00 or 6:00 to a  
11 hotel that they could not leave. It was incommunicado  
12 because they were not permitted or given any  
13 opportunity to call a priest, a lawyer, or anybody  
14 else.

15 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: I understand.

16 MR. GREATHEAD: And I don't want you to lose  
17 the flavor of the circumstances they were in.

18 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: I understand that, but I'm  
19 just wondering what's going on in her own mind at this  
20 time. That's what I'm trying to find out.

21 MR. MCCLOSKEY: I think we all understand  
22 what you are saying and what she is saying, but I guess

1 the question did not ask him if he had specifically  
2 been threatened or did he ever advise his wife to  
3 change the story. I understand they had an evening  
4 conversation as to changing the stories, but  
5 specifically, how bad was his treatment?

6 MR. DE CERNA: Yes, that's it. The way they  
7 treated her and the pressure they put on her was as if  
8 they were treating a man. That was starting Tuesday.  
9 Monday she gave her correct declaration, the same way  
10 as she had done in El Salvador.

11 MRS. DE CERNA: And as I did it in the hotel.

12 MR. DE CERNA: The same declaration I made in  
13 El Salvador, the same declaration I gave it--

14 MRS. DE CERNA: Tuesday, all morning.

15 MR. DE CERNA: Yes, Tuesday. When they were  
16 interrogating me in a very hard manner, harsh manner,  
17 the Colonel Rivas, he told me, the agent, the FBI agent  
18 Rivero, told me, it depends on your declarations, it  
19 depends on your declarations to see if you are going to  
20 stay here or you go back to El Salvador.

21 And that's when the pressure against me  
22 started. The FBI agents, Rivero and Sanchez.

1 MR. MCCLOSKEY: I think obviously they were  
2 saying the less he knew the more likely he would stay  
3 in the United States?

4 MR. DE CERNA: No. They didn't say that.  
5 No. The only thing that they told me is, look,  
6 according to your declaration, it depends on your  
7 declaration if you stay here or you go back to  
8 El Salvador.

9 MR. MCCLOSKEY: Let me ask, what type of  
10 declaration were they urging then?

11 MR. OBEY: What did he think they meant by  
12 this?

13 MR. GREATHEAD: Why don't you ask whether he  
14 thought the interrogators believed the story that Lucia  
15 had been telling up to that time?

16 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: I think she answered that  
17 already, that she believed that they didn't believe the  
18 story.

19 MR. GREATHEAD: Well, I think that it is that  
20 element of disbelief that was leading them to conclude  
21 that they wanted to hear something else.

22 MR. MCCLOSKEY: Well, what sort of

1 declaration was he thinking they wanted in order for  
2 him not to go to El Salvador?

3 MR. DE CERNA: You could see the big  
4 difference there was, the way they changed when she  
5 changed her declaration. You could see the change.

6 MR. MCCLOSKEY: So when she said she knew  
7 nothing, in effect it got better?

8 MR. DE CERNA: Yes.

9 MR. MURTHA: Let me ask, did they say that if  
10 you weren't telling the truth? Is that what they said  
11 to you, that they didn't believe you were telling the  
12 truth and they wanted the truth?

13 MR. DE CERNA: Yes, that's it. They didn't  
14 believe that she had seen, and if she had seen it why  
15 hadn't I seen?

16 Now, there were no tortures. It was only  
17 pressure. It was oral pressure, with words. It was  
18 not with tortures and things.

19 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Did they use the exact  
20 words, "If you are not telling the truth you are going  
21 to be in trouble," or something like that? They didn't  
22 use that, did they?

1 MR. DE CERNA: No. But we analyzed it that  
2 way.

3 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Yes. They just felt that  
4 they didn't believe them?

5 MR. DE CERNA: Yes. And then with the little  
6 girl here, we arrived there at eight o'clock in the  
7 morning and we would end up at six or seven o'clock in  
8 the afternoon coming out of those offices.

9 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Did you ever ask to talk  
10 to a priest or anybody else during this whole  
11 interrogation?

12 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes. I asked on Thursday.

13 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Did you ask for any  
14 specific priest?

15 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes. The people, the priests  
16 that had come to receive us at the airport on the  
17 Thursday night.

18 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: And what was the answer  
19 they gave you?

20 MRS. DE CERNA: I know that they knew the  
21 number of this priest, because on Sunday they contacted  
22 Father Escavez. And then they told me, look, we are

1 going to change your hotel, we are going to move to  
2 another hotel. And then it was a great surprise--we  
3 don't know the number, we don't know the name of the  
4 hotel--but then to my great surprise we just changed  
5 floors in the same hotel.

6 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Did anybody ever tell you  
7 that you didn't have to take that lie detector exam?

8 MR. GREATHEAD: She didn't finish that  
9 question, but I think if you ask her on Thursday what  
10 the response of the agent was who she asked?

11 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: I thought she said he lost  
12 the number?

13 THE INTERPRETER: Would you ask the question,  
14 please.

15 MR. GREATHEAD: I don't think she answered  
16 that.

17 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: What was the agent's  
18 response when you asked to contact the priest?

19 MRS. DE CERNA: Nobody knew the number.

20 MR. MURTHA: What Thursday was this?

21 MRS. DE CERNA: You know, I don't know what  
22 Thursday it was, because we had been so many days there



1 in the hotel. And the only thing we knew is that in  
2 the morning it was light and at night it was dark, and  
3 that's when we came out.

4 MR. MURTHA: My question was, she came on a  
5 Thursday, if I remember. This was the second Thursday?

6 MRS. DE CERNA: It's the Thursday of the week  
7 when they were interrogating us.

8 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: The second one. But  
9 didn't they call this priest originally? Didn't they  
10 have this number originally? Didn't they contact this  
11 priest when they first supplied you the information?

12 MRS. DE CERNA: Well, it was the day when I  
13 went to fetch the clothes, because the Father was going  
14 to supply us with some clothing. And I wanted them to  
15 get in touch with him.

16 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Well, but I thought  
17 somewhere along the line that she said that they had  
18 the number, but they said they lost it?

19 MRS. DE CERNA: No, they didn't say that to  
20 me, no.

21 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: I'm sorry, my mistake.  
22 Did they inform you that you could have

1 somebody there, a lawyer or a priest, while they were  
2 asking you questions?

3 MRS. DE CERNA: At no time did they mention  
4 any of those things.

5 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Did they tell you that  
6 taking that test was a voluntary test?

7 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes, they did. They told me  
8 it was voluntary. And then I said, well, if it was  
9 something that could corroborate what I was saying,  
10 then I was very willing to do it.

11 MR. OBEY: You said you changed your story  
12 after you thought that they wanted you to. Is that  
13 right?

14 MRS. DE CERNA: I couldn't understand, I  
15 couldn't feel if they wanted me to change. When that  
16 interrogatory, that very strong interrogation,  
17 questioning, started, I remembered how my husband had  
18 come out one day before, in what condition. And I have  
19 high blood pressure and I have problems with my nerves  
20 and I'm very tense. And when he asked me a question  
21 and he stamped his foot and he raised his voice and he  
22 asked me to tell him about the priest, then I told him,

1 don't confuse me.

2 Because Father Estrada was one of the priests  
3 that was in House No. 50 when I went that morning to  
4 advise him.

5 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Do you take any medication  
6 for your high blood pressure?

7 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes. Today I am taking it.

8 MR. GREATHEAD: She thinks you are asking do  
9 you have your medicine for your hypertension.

10 Why don't you ask her if a doctor has given  
11 her medicine for it?

12 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: I want to know is she  
13 under a doctor's supervision for high blood pressure,  
14 and if so, does she take medication, any place?

15 MRS. DE CERNA: I had more than one year that  
16 I was under supervision by the cardiologist, and the  
17 Social Security. But on Wednesday when we were in such  
18 a rush to leave, I forgot the medication.

19 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Any other?

20 MR. OBEY: What I would like to get at is  
21 this. You say you changed your story after he began to  
22 stamp his feet and ask about the priest.

1 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes. I was very afraid.

2 MR. OBEY: So which story did you tell when  
3 they were using the polygraph machine?

4 MRS. DE CERNA: Well, with the machine I'm  
5 not telling a story. Those are answering questions.

6 MR. GREATHEAD: Ask her what questions she  
7 was asked.

8 MR. OBEY: What kinds of questions were you  
9 asked when you were hooked up to the polygraph machine?

10 MRS. DE CERNA: That was the changed version.  
11 After the story had changed, it is from that changed  
12 story that they started asking questions.

13 MR. GREATHEAD: [Interpreted from Spanish.]  
14 Give an example of the question.

15 MRS. DE CERNA: I was afraid of that chair,  
16 and even now I am scared of that chair. And the  
17 colonel told me, don't be afraid, this is just like  
18 when they make a blood pressure test, they put two  
19 things here, and that it was nothing to worry about.

20 And when I entered this room I saw this chair  
21 there.

22 MR. GREATHEAD: [Interpreted from Spanish.]

1 Tell only about the questions that they asked you.

2 MRS. DE CERNA: They started asking me if my  
3 name was the right one, if that was the right name. If  
4 I had been born in the place where I was born.

5 What other questions did they ask me?

6 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Did they ask you about  
7 your relatives living back there?

8 MRS. DE CERNA: They asked me, but not during  
9 that exam.

10 If I knew that I was in Miami. They asked me  
11 if I had lied to <sup>the judge a</sup> justice, to the legal. I told them  
12 no, because I had changed my story. And then came the  
13 question if I had gone close to that window. And they  
14 took this paper away, they put another paper on, they  
15 asked the very same question. When we reached the same  
16 question, the same window, they took again the paper  
17 away. The third time, the third time the same  
18 questions until we reached the window, and then the  
19 operator told me.

20 And then I told him, I told the operator,  
21 what are you going to do with all those papers?

22 It is from this we are going to make an

1 evaluation. Okay.

2 And then about 20 minutes later the operator  
3 came back, and one of the detectives came, Mr. Rivero,  
4 and he told me, lady, listen, we would like to know  
5 what is it that you saw on that window?

6 So many times I have told it to you now. My  
7 husband has told it to you. And because I was sick and  
8 tired by that time, and this is the gestures I was  
9 using: I hadn't seen a thing. But the window is  
10 saying yes. No--the machine. The machine is says yes.

11 Say at least that you saw a priest out there.  
12 And I said no, I didn't see a thing. Nobody believes  
13 me. Then you might as well not ask me any questions,  
14 don't do this, don't make me take this test. Don't  
15 take this test.

16 That was on Wednesday. And on Thursday they  
17 continued with the same thing. And they mentioned  
18 that, the change of the story. And that somebody else  
19 had told me what I told them, the story that I told.  
20 And that's when the exam took an end.

21 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: When they said someone  
22 else told you, did they ask you if any priest told you

1 to say this?

2 MRS. DE CERNA: In the questioning, yes.  
3 Before I changed the version. When I changed the  
4 version, they didn't mention the priest any more.

5 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Once she changed the  
6 version they didn't mention the priest. Okay.

7 MR. MCHUGH: I'd just like to go back for a  
8 minute to the events before the killing.

9 As I recall, she indicated she did not see  
10 any military people when they arrived at the residence,  
11 only after, when they were leaving.

12 MR. GREATHEAD: When they were leaving  
13 Soyapango.

14 MR. MCHUGH: I understood her to say--

15 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: This is off the record.

16 [Discussion off the record.]

17 MR. MCHUGH: I would like to be as clear as  
18 possible as to what they saw or didn't see with respect  
19 to military patrol of this area.

20 MRS. DE CERNA: When we arrived with our  
21 belongings to the room that had been assigned to us by  
22 the priest, you couldn't see that. But he went to the

1 store about 5:15--no, something like that. Just after  
2 we arrived he went to the store to buy candles, because  
3 I am always foreseeing the need for candles.

4 And he went to go and get a beverage that the  
5 girl had asked him to get.

6 But maybe at that time there were already  
7 military, but when we arrived there were none.

8 MR. MCHUGH: Perhaps he could describe  
9 briefly what he saw.

10 MR. DE CERNA: When I was going to the store  
11 three jeeps with soldiers, full of soldiers went by.  
12 And they stayed in a square where a small supermarket  
13 is. And they surrounded the whole area that is called  
14 "the gardens," but in the morning before reaching that  
15 place we had passed out of--it is the superhighway  
16 south. There is an entrance to the university from  
17 this superhighway, this south highway.

18 That was on Wednesday when we went to Antigua  
19 Cuzcatlan. This gate of the university was being  
20 guarded by many soldiers. I do not know how many, but  
21 there were many.

22 MRS. DE CERNA: Yes, I saw that too, yes.



1 That was on Wednesday when we were going to Antigua to  
2 go to the room of my mother.

3 MR. DE CERNA: At 6:15, 6:20 in the morning  
4 when we were leaving we saw that that whole area was  
5 full of soldiers and that gate there of the university  
6 was guarded by a lot of soldiers. The whole area was  
7 full of soldiers.

8 MR. MCHUGH: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Okay. Any other  
10 questions?

11 Counsel, would you like to add something for  
12 the record?

13 MR. GREATHEAD: Yes. I would like to add  
14 that I am involved in this case as a member of the  
15 Board of Directors of the Lawyers Committee for Human  
16 Rights. I have spent about eight years on cases like  
17 this in El Salvador and we have represented since 1982  
18 the families of four American church women who were  
19 murdered there in December of '80.

20 I have made a dozen trips to El Salvador  
21 since 1982. I work for a law enforcement agency  
22 normally. I'm doing this <sup>pro bono</sup> ~~for~~ "bas publico."

1 But I would just like to say that as somebody  
2 who does work for a law enforcement agency, after  
3 hearing Jorge and Lucia describe their treatment after  
4 arriving in this country I was shocked, angry and  
5 embarrassed. Lucia has already given her testimony to  
6 a judge in El Salvador. It is a very unusual thing for  
7 a Salvadoran who has witnessed a crime implicating the  
8 military or the security forces to step forward  
9 voluntarily <sup>ily</sup> and be a witness.

10 In the church women's case we could not find  
11 anybody to do that. In many other cases it is like  
12 pulling teeth to get somebody to do that, because they  
13 submit themselves to enormous risks, and their family.  
14 When Lucia arrived in this country she had already  
15 given her testimony. She was, nevertheless, subjected  
16 to four days straight of incommunicado, very intense  
17 custodial interrogation, despite the fact that the  
18 testimony she has to offer is rather limited. She  
19 cannot identify any specific individual. She does not  
20 pretend to be able to identify markings on uniforms.

21 It is at most evidentiary lead testimony. It  
22 is the type of testimony that most investigators in my

1 experience would either decide to follow if they found  
2 it credible, or not. They would not have found it  
3 necessary to subject anybody to four days of intensive  
4 interrogation over what somebody apparently saw for a  
5 period of time of less than 12 minutes.

6 I do not believe there is any logical reason  
7 from a law enforcement standpoint to have subjected  
8 Jorge and Lucia to this kind of interrogation, and none  
9 has ever been offered to us by the FBI or the State  
10 Department. We have made very specific charges about  
11 their treatment in a 36 page report. All I have seen  
12 in the published responses is a general denial.

13 I think Jorge and Lucia and the Jesuits are  
14 owed more than that. I think at a very minimum the  
15 United States Government owes Jorge and Lucia an  
16 apology. I think they owe the Jesuits an explanation  
17 of why they were treated this way. And finally, I  
18 think they owe to all of us who are concerned about  
19 accomplishing justice in this case that happens to be,  
20 apparently, under investigation in El Salvador, some  
21 sort of <sup>assurance</sup> ~~insurance~~ that that case is moving forward and  
22 that the appropriate steps are being taken in El

1 Salvador. And so far we haven't gotten anything of the  
2 sort from them.

3 So I just wanted to close with those remarks.  
4 I think the committee has a copy of our report.

5 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: I do. I think everybody  
6 has a copy.

7 MR. GREATHEAD: Okay. Unless there are any  
8 questions--

9 MR. MCHUGH: Have you made any request of the  
10 FBI for a copy of the transcript? They probably  
11 recorded questions and answers on tape.

12 MR. GREATHEAD: Well, Father Tipton at my  
13 recommendation called the office of Senator Kennedy,  
14 who asked if he could help, and we asked him to ask for  
15 a copy of the tapes. We had by then<sup>n</sup> heard from the  
16 State Department there were some five hours of tapes.  
17 And he was later told by Senator Kennedy that the tapes  
18 had been given to the Papal Nuncio, and apparently the  
19 State Department had told him that they were tired of  
20 dealing with all these different Catholic  
21 organizations, they were just going to give them to the  
22 Papal Nuncio.

1 Yesterday Ambassador Walker requested a  
2 meeting with Father Tipton and others. I could not  
3 attend because my office is in New York and it was  
4 scheduled at a very late moment. And Father Tipton, I  
5 understand, asked again for copies of the tapes and was  
6 told they weren't available because this was an ongoing  
7 investigation.

8 Well, those are trade words that any law  
9 enforcement agency always utters when they don't want  
10 to share something, whether or not it has anything at  
11 all to do with an ongoing investigation, and I frankly  
12 doubt that's the reason that they are refusing to give  
13 us those tapes. But in any case, they have declined  
14 to.

15 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: All right. Any other  
16 questions?

17 Father Tipton, do you have anything that you  
18 would like to say?

19 FATHER TIPTON: I just want to say thank you  
20 very much Mr. Chairman for receiving these people.

21 On behalf of Jesuits of the United States and  
22 Central America, we really deeply appreciate what this

1 committee is undertaking. I simply think it is my  
2 evaluation that this is a very simple, lovely family  
3 who have been caught up and chewed up in a terrible  
4 event and that I feel that, as you probably read in the  
5 press, that it has been bungled. And basically this is  
6 the only witness that has come forward to give her  
7 testimony, and now it has no value.

8 And, you know, our government somehow  
9 participated in all that. I don't want to go so far as  
10 to say it was intentional, but, you know, motive needs  
11 to be looked at as to why this was done.

12 I would say the confidence--this is a  
13 statement I would like to make to the committee as you  
14 address this thing--the level of trust and confidence  
15 in our embassy in El Salvador by the Jesuits, the  
16 Archbishop, is the zilch, zero. That is very clear.

17 I told the ambassador that last night. I  
18 think that's why they went to the Spanish Embassy,  
19 rather than the American Embassy, and as an American  
20 that embarrasses me, that our people can't be seen to  
21 be trusted. That's one point.

22 The second thing was, I spoke with Father

1 Tejeira<sup>D</sup> this morning at nine o'clock in San Salvador.

2 He assured me that it was never his intention or  
3 agreement with our ambassador that these people were to  
4 be subjected to any further questioning, and that that  
5 was made clear in Salvador before they left.

6 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: To whom?

7 FATHER TIPTON: To either the ambassador or  
8 to Richard Chidester. It was to the officials of the  
9 government. That their sole job was to escort them in,  
10 bring them through Immigration, and turn them over to  
11 the Jesuits, and that didn't happen.

12 MR. MCCLOSKEY: Who was the Jesuit Father  
13 that told you that?

14 FATHER TIPTON: Father Jose Tejeira<sup>D</sup> is the  
15 Provincial of Central America. So again, I want to  
16 thank you very much, and anything we can do to help  
17 this committee, we want to do it.

18 CHAIRMAN MOAKLEY: Thank you very much, and  
19 thank you, Counsel.

20 And thank you, Lucia and Jorge and Geraldina.

21 [Whereupon, at 1:40 p.m., the interview was  
22 concluded.]