

February 21, 1990

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joe Moakley
FR: Jim McGovern
RE: El Salvador Task Force Meeting with Mike O'Neil, Sophie Hayford
and Bill Woodward at 5pm today -- Where Do We Go From Here?

General

The trip on February 11-14 has been viewed as a huge success by all involved -- and by the outside "groups." It is generally felt that you were sufficiently tough on the Salvadoran military and that the delegation was unified in sending the signal that more needs to be done.

Recommendations

1) The group should stay together. The consensus is certainly that having a task force monitoring events in El Salvador will continue the pressure on that government. It will keep both the Salvadoran military and the Administration guessing as to what will happen next. Hopefully, it will provide the incentive for them to go further.

2) The group needs to review all cable traffic and remaining information. It is important that we carefully collect and read all relevant information that the Administration has offered to produce. Staff -- with appropriate clearances -- can review the materials first. Afterwhich, Members can go over it.

3) The group needs to call in Major Buckland for an interrogation. JJM should probably make the call to DoD. The incentive for them to produce Buckland has increased since we have a copy of his testimony -- compliments of Col. Rivas.

4) The task force should issue a report for two reasons: First, the expectations and importance of the task force have been greatly exaggerated by the groups and other Members. People are waiting for the task force report or for our recommendations. I do not think we can get around issuing a report without looking like we are caving in.

Second, the report should be facts -- and not policy recommendations. Part of the reason why the task force was formed was so that we could provide Members with factual information which could help them make future policy decisions. I strongly feel we should do it.

5) JJM should send another staff delegation to El Salvador to doublecheck facts for the report. It would show that we are serious and it will keep up the pressure.

6) We should plan to release the report, brief the Speaker and the Central American task force sometime in April. (JJM should also talk with Fascell -- so that he doesn't feel left out). This will come after the Nicaragua elections are well out of the way -- and help set the stage for a policy debate in Congress on El Salvador.

7) During the meeting with the Central America Task force, JJM should offer a policy recommendation on what the House might do with regard to El Salvador. We should try to get a consensus.