



U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, D.C. 20530

AUG 2 1991

Mr. Richard Chidester
c/o Batelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory
P. O. Box 999
Mail Stop K7-28
Richmond, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Chidester:

The Government of the Republic of El Salvador has requested the assistance of the Government of the United States in a criminal investigation being conducted in El Salvador. The Fourth Criminal Court in San Salvador is preparing for the prosecution of nine Salvadoran military officers who are accused of the November 16, 1989, murder of six Jesuit priests and two of the priests' coworkers. The Judge of the Court has issued a letter rogatory dated June 3, 1991, asking for your answers to certain questions arising from this matter. A copy of the letter rogatory containing the questions is attached.

The Department of Justice has been asked to contact you and ask you to voluntarily answer the questions. In this regard, we wish to advise you of the following:

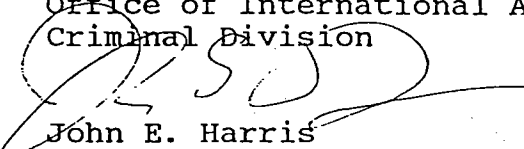
1. There is no United States Department of Justice investigation of any kind pending concerning your conduct in this matter. The Department of Justice's role in this matter is merely to assist, as a matter of comity, El Salvador authorities by transmitting their questions to you and conveying your reply to them, as a matter of international comity;
2. You have a right to consult with your attorney before answering any questions, and your attorney may contact me to discuss this matter in more detail;
3. You may refuse to answer any or all questions for any reason, including a belief that a truthful answer would tend to incriminate you; and
4. Any answers that you do provide will be given to El Salvador authorities for use in the prosecution. You should be aware that the answers may be used against you in subsequent legal proceedings in El Salvador.

We ask that you examine the enclosed letter rogatory and voluntarily answer the questions to the extent that you can. If you agree to answer the questions, we will be happy to assist in recording your reply and transmitting it to El Salvador via proper channels. In order to expedite the process, we will arrange a convenient time for you to appear at the Office of International Affairs, Room 5400, 1400 New York Avenue N.W., Washington D.C., to discuss this matter, to provide your statement for transcription, or to indicate your reasons for not providing a statement.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 514- 0020.

Sincerely,

Drew C. Arena
Director
Office of International Affairs
Criminal Division

By:  John E. Harris
Deputy Director

Enclosures