

Notes Translation:

1. Salvadoran Refugees

Suspension of Deportation chronology:

1982-1983: Jamaica Plain Post Office visit where group of J.P. citizens brought in Salvadoran Refugees to meet JJM. They told JJM they were afraid to go back to El Salvador because they would be "maimed, tortured, incarcerated or killed".

1984: JJM introduces bill with 175 cosponsors. President Reagan opposes the bill because of economic reasons. Bill dies. Sanctaury Movement begins with some members being tried as criminals. There ar 350 sanctuaries in U.S. by 1985.

1985: New Bill introduced.

1986: Bill passes by 2 votes in House but dies in conference committee where it was detached from the Immigration Reform Act of 1986.

1987: New bill introduced. Bill passes in July by vote of 237 t 181. Senate side maneuvering on bill begins.

1988: Senate maneuvering on bill continues through September. President Duarte of El Salvador lobbies Congress to pass the bill. Bill passes and JJM threatens to kill Immigration bill unless his legislation is attached to it. JJM goes "eye to eye" with Senator Simpson on this issue. JJM wins and bill goes to President who signs bill.

Importance:

The Administration had to face the fact that Congress's perception of El Salvador differed from its own. Administration saw a strong democracy fighting communists in a civil war. The Administration saw refugees fleeing from that war to the U.S. to find jobs. Congress sa a propped up democracy which was kept in check by "death squads" and intimidation of people. Congress saw fear of persecution as being th motivation for refugees coming to the U.S. from El Salvador. Congres saw U.S. dollars being used to fuel the civil war also.

Jesuit Killings:

Jesuit priests were killed by the Salvadoran military on November 16t 1989. JJM knew two of the priests. On December 6, 1989, Speaker Fol formed a Special Task Force on El Salvador which was chaired by JJM.

There were 18 member sof Congress on the task force.

El Salvadoran Judicial efforts commence under Judge Zamora to bring t killers to justice.

JJM takes a tour of El Salvador.

There were many efforts to push the Salvadoran Military to cooperate with the investigation, but the military's "code of silence" hinders efforts. The military privately did not believe that U.S. outrage wou last. When Archbishop Romero was killed on the alter in 1980 U.S. outrage quickly fell off the front pages. Up to the point, no milita personnel had ever been tried and convicted for a civilian crime due the military code of silence. In regards to the investigation, even though there were hundreds of military personnel seen in the vicinity of the University of Central America, were the Jesuits, a cook and he daughter were killed, and even though military officers deliberately destroyed log books associated with their activities on the day in question, the Salvadoran justice system was having difficulty implicating military personnel.

Congressional action following the Task Force's report in 1990 result in a reduction of U.S. military aid to El Salvador. Also, constant U.S. pressure, led by JJM, finally did result in one Salvador militar officer going to jail as well as other military underlings.