M. SHANNON

S AND MEANS

HEALTH TRADE

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

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Dear Colleague:

If you would like to sign the following letter concerning Salvadoran refugees please contact Meredith Segal of my office at X5-3411 by Friday, March 6, 1982.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Very truly yours,

James M. Shannon Member of Congress

The Honorable Alexander M. Haig, Jr. Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Haig:

We are very concerned about the terrible plight of Salvadoran refugees on the Salvadoran-Honduran border.

Innocent Salvadorans merely trying to escape the death and violence in their own country have been mercilessly killed by Salvadoran and Honduran military forces. These refugees, most of whom are women, children, and elderly, are not only attacked en route to refugee camps in Honduras, but are also attacked when within those camps. In essence there is no refuge for Salvadorans who only want peace. The massacre of these people has been clearly documented by a number of worldwide respected human rights organizations and it is a matter that demands our attention.

It is our understanding that the Honduran government is planning to relocate Salvadoran refugees living along the Salvadoran-Honduran border to prevent further attacks. We are concerned that such a move, if combined with a removal of the doctors, journalists, relief workers, and U.N. personnel who are presently in these camps would erode the only real defense these refugees have from attack. We do not believe that mere relocation will afford protection to these refugees.

We strongly urge therefore that the U.S. appeal to the U.N. to provide some form of protective or observatory unit for Salvadoran refugees in Honduras. The right of refugees to escape violence without interference from official forces must be ensured. Further, we would like to know what protests, if any, have been made by the United States to the Salvadoran and Honduran governments in regard to the plight of Salvadora refugees. Is there any U.S. effort to help these people?

We appreciate your responsiveness to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

James M. Shannon Member of Congress Member of Congress

called to co-sign

3-2-82

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