

As chairman of the Speaker's special task force on El Salvador, I wrote you on January 29, requesting information on United States training of the Atlacatl Battalion and military personnel implicated in the massacre of the six Jesuit priests their housekeeper and her young daughter.

It may be that the deadline I suggested in my letter was unreasonable, and precluded the Department from a full response. For whatever reason, though, the response I received on February 9, was not adequate, given the importance of this topic to the task force. The facts relating to U.S. training of the Atlacatl, its extent and content, and its modifications throughout the 1980's in response to alleged abuses of human rights by the battalion are crucial to our deliberations. I would respectfully like to resubmit my request.

Problems with the February 9 response include:

* The response states that there has been no formal training relationship with the Atlacatl Battalion. According to a number of published sources, though, a U.S. mobile training team first trained the Atlacatl in 1981, and many members have been trained since.

* I asked for detailed information relating to the time, location, and nature and evolution of U.S. training for every member of the Atlacatl who received it, but the response provided only one summary paragraph each for four courses, and provided none of the requested information about them.

* I asked for a detailed description of human rights training, but the response simply said that such training had been given, without describing it, and without indicating which and how many personnel received that training.

* I asked for a specific description of training provided since the beginning of 1988 to Atlacatl personnel in the unit involved in the massacre, but the response simply states that the only training of Atlacatl personnel was in a marksman's course. It does not say which and how many personnel took part, whether they were in the unit, and what their assignments were in the unit. It is hard to imagine that there were no other instances of training personnel in this unit by the U.S. trainers in El Salvador under the 55-trainer cap, by other Milgroup or TDY personnel, or in the United States, under the IMET program.

* I asked for information on all U.S. training of military personnel charged in the massacre, but the response did not address that request.

I appreciate your cooperation on this matter. Your staff should feel free to call mine if there is any confusion about the intent of specific questions in the original letter.

Sincerely,

John Joseph Moakley

Enclosures: (2)