

WHICH SIDE ARE THEY ON?

THE POSITIONS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DELEGATION ON AID TO EL SALVADOR

THE RECENT LEGISLATION

Two Massachusetts members of congress have sponsored legislation challenging the Reagan Administration's policy toward El Salvador. Rep. Gerry STUDDS introduced legislation on Feb. 2 (House Joint Resolution, 399), declaring the President's certification of Congressionally mandated conditions on aid "null and void" and suspending all military aid to El Salvador until Congress certifies that the conditions have been met. On Feb. 10, Sen. Paul TSONGAS introduced legislation calling on the Administration to encourage unconditional negotiations between all parties in the conflict in El Salvador, with the purpose of achieving a ceasefire and an overall political settlement to the conflict (Senate Joint Resolution 144; H.J. Res. 405).

THE POSITIONS OF THE DELEGATION (by Congressional District)

C.D. #1--CONTE: On Feb. 12, Rep. Conte responded to the Reagan certification, stating: "I will not vote for another nickel until these conditions have been met." Conte is a co-sponsor of the TSONGAS legislation.

C.D. #2--BOLAND: Rep. Boland has not issued any recent statements concerning El Salvador; he is, however, a co-sponsor of the TSONGAS legislation.

C.D. #3--EARLY: Rep. Early recently stated: "This nation must, as a matter of both morality and rationality, avoid supporting governments which neither have broad based popular support nor adequate recognition of the basic human rights of their people." (Worcester Telegram, 2/22) Early co-sponsors the STUDDS resolution.

C.D. #4--FRANK: Co-sponsor of the STUDDS legislation and a featured speaker at the El Salvador rally in Boston on Feb. 13, Rep. Frank states: "We must work for negotiations involving all parties. More arms will only result in more bloodshed."

C.D. #5--SHANNON: Rep. Shannon sent this message to the El Salvador rally in Boston (2/13): "I support your efforts to end U.S. military assistance to El Salvador. Your actions today are a clear sign to President Reagan that the American people do not support U.S. involvement in El Salvador. I join you in your efforts by co-sponsoring H.J. Res. 3, Gerry STUDDS bill."

C.D. #6--MAVROULES: A co-sponsor of the STUDDS legislation, Rep. Mavroules stated on Feb. 12: "Once again the situation in El Salvador has reached a critical juncture. On both sides innocent people continue to die. Rather than sending more military aid, the time is right to take a long, careful look at the options available."

C.D. #7--MARKEY: For the El Salvador rally (2/13) Rep. Markey stated: "Our mistakes in Vietnam and Iran have apparently--and unfortunately--not taught us that U.S. assistance in the form of ammunition and increased military might is not the solution to what is most obviously a civil conflict." Markey co-sponsors the STUDDS resolution.

C.D. #8--O'NEILL: Speaker O'Neill announced at a Feb. 24 press conference that "the U.S. should encourage negotiations," with those prevailing in the elections in El Salvador sitting down with other groups in the conflict. O'Neill has not taken a position on the Studds or Tsongas bills.

C.D. #9--MOAKLEY: In the Congressional Record (2/8/82) Rep. Moakley states: "By militarily propping up a regime that oppresses its people - we, too, are contributing to that oppression. The people of El Salvador are turning on their present government--not out of a lust for Marxist ideology--but, rather, in hopes of putting food in their children's mouths and shelter over their children's heads." Moakley is a co-sponsor of the STUDDS bill.

C.D. #10--HECKLER: Rep. Heckler's position on Feb. 23: "I do not believe that sending more military aid to El Salvador will help end the conflict. The U.S. can and should adopt an attitude of using pressure to bring about a negotiated settlement, rather than making it possible for this tragedy to continue." Heckler has not co-sponsored either the Studds or Tsongas legislation.

C.D. #11--DONNELLY: Rep. Donnelly withholds endorsing legislation or releasing a statement until he sees the outcome of the March 28 elections in El Salvador.

C.D. #12--STUDDS: Rep. Studds leads the fight against aid to El Salvador. Concerning his recent legislation, he asserts: "It is my intention to push this Resolution to a vote in the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the full House of Representatives as soon as possible. . . The people have the right, in this election year, to discover, on the record, whether their Representative to Congress shares (their) view." ("Weekly Report to the People," 2/5)

SENATOR TSONGAS: Sen. Tsongas, who also co-sponsored legislation on El Salvador with Sen. Kennedy last March, released this statement with the announcement of his new legislation: "Sooner or later there will have to be a political solution. The ultimate card, namely U.S. military involvement, is not playable. There is still time to salvage the situation in El Salvador. The only way to make failure inevitable is to continue on the present course."

SENATOR KENNEDY: Sen. Kennedy has been a leader of opposition to the Reagan policy toward El Salvador since November of last year and is a co-sponsor of the current Tsongas legislation. In response to Reagan's certification, Sen. Kennedy stated: "This is a tragic mistake that will only make the conflict worse and involve the U.S. even more deeply in that civil war. The Reagan Administration is setting a dangerous course by pursuing a military solution in El Salvador, when the urgent need is for a political settlement to end the conflict."

ACTION ALERT: KEEP THE PRESSURE ON!

Support your legislators who oppose aid to El Salvador and keep them accountable to their public statements; convince those who do not yet support legislation to do so; urge all of them to take a leadership role. March on Washington on March 27 to let the rest of Congress and the country know how you feel about U.S. policy toward El Salvador.

This leaflet is produced as part of the Congressional lobbying campaign of CPPAX. For more information and to become more involved, contact CPPAX at 25 WEST ST., BOSTON, MA 02111 or call (617) 426-3040.