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U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Rules

Washington, DC 20515-6269

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May 17, 1990

Dear Colleague:

When H.R. 4636, the Supplemental Assistance for Emerging Democracies Act of 1990, is considered by the House, we will be offering a substitute to the El Salvador provisions that we feel is worthy of your support.

We maintain the basic framework of the committee passed bill--a 50% withholding of military aid for FY 1990 and FY 1991 and a transfer of the withheld aid at the end of each fiscal year to humanitarian assistance to El Salvador.

We maintain the basic structure of conditionality--allowing the President to either restore the withheld 50% or impose a full 100% cut in military aid if the President finds that certain actions have or have not been taken by the government of El Salvador or the FMLN.

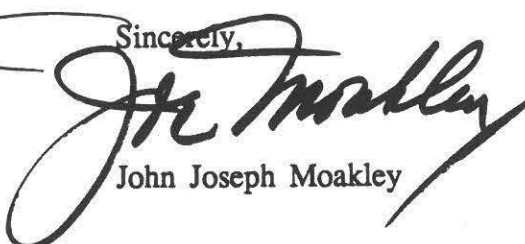
What we have done is improve the bill in the following four ways:

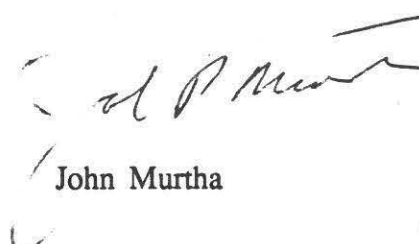
1. Place an additional condition relating to the conduct of both the FMLN and military forces of El Salvador. Specifically, the substitute triggers the additional assistance if the FMLN is engaged in assassinating or abducting civilian noncombatants, or is engaging in other acts of violence directed at civilian targets, or is failing to control such activities by elements subject to FMLN control.

The substitute triggers zero assistance to El Salvador if the military or security forces of El Salvador are assassinating or abducting civilian noncombatants, or are engaging in other acts of violence directed at civilian targets, or are failing to control such activities by elements subject to the control of those forces.

2. Strengthen civilian control over the military. Our substitute requires the prior approval of the President of El Salvador before military assistance may be delivered to the military.
3. Authorize funding for election monitoring. We earmarks not less than \$2 million of the funds for the Support Democracy Program authorized in the bill for registration, campaign and election monitoring.
4. Require additional information on both the FMLN and El Salvador in the Presidential determination required in the bill. Our substitute adds language to the Presidential report section requiring the President to describe: (1) progress made by El Salvador relating to judicial reform, freedom of the press and assembly, and military reform; (2) the effects on the civilian population of economic sabotage and other acts of violence committed against civilian targets by the FMLN; and (3) the status of investigations into politically motivated murders and the extent to which the armed forces of El Salvador and the FMLN are each cooperating in those investigations.

We feel this substitute is an improvement on an already strong bill and as such should be supported.

Sincerely,

 John Joseph Moakley


 John Murtha