

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

I want to thank you personally for your help as well as Dante Fascell and also Dave Obey and the other Members.

For the record, let me state why I support what we are attempting to do here today by moving the vote on El Salvador to sometime in September.

As you said, we are keeping the pressure on both sides in the conflict. In the coming months, we will also monitor the negotiations and the level of violence and the progress of the Jesuit case. Then we will determine what is the appropriate course in terms of the United States military assistance to El Salvador.

Both the MFLN and El Salvadoran armed forces should be put on notice. If the MFLN deliberately stalls negotiations, if the MFLN is assassinating civilians, if the MFLN fails to meet its international legal obligations in the helicopter case or if the MFLN continues to get significant shipments of arms outside of El Salvador, then that violation will be reflected in the level of military assistance that this Congress will provide to the Salvadoran armed forces.

If on the other hand the Salvadoran government stalls the negotiations, if the Salvadoran army assassinates civilians, and unless there is a breakthrough in the Jesuits case, these facts will be reflected in the level of military assistance or the lack of military assistance this Congress

will provide to the Salvadoran government.

Let me emphasize my belief at this point the cooperation of the Salvadoran armed forces on the Jesuit case has not been at all satisfactory. The lies, the obstruction of justice, the general level of noncooperation by the Salvadoran armed forces just cannot be tolerated; and I believe unless there is a change in that attitude, it will not be tolerated by this Congress.

It should also be made clear that our silence on the foreign aid bill at this time should not in any way--and I think you made this perfectly clear--be interpreted as lessening our support for the efforts of the United Nations Secretary General in mediating the negotiations between the government and the MFLN.

We are pleased to note over 100 United Nations personnel will soon arrive in El Salvador to monitor human rights.

So, I believe the temporary withholding of congressional action on this matter will keep the pressure on both the MFLN and the Salvadoran government to negotiate seriously an end to the war. I would hope the Bush administration will follow our lead and refrain from doing anything that might jeopardize this very delicate process.

Specifically, I would urge they continue to withhold the \$42.5 million in fiscal year 1991 U.S. military assistance that has not yet been obligated.

I also hope the administration will give unequivocal and unambiguous support to the United Nations Secretary General's efforts in the negotiations. The administration's responsibilities in these two areas will also weigh very heavily in future deliberations on military aid to El Salvador.

I think you are perfectly right. I think because of the negotiations, because they are in such a delicate situation at the present time, that any message we send down there could be misinterpreted. I think the State Department asked us all not to do anything until May 30. I am sure they will be in perfect harmony with this request today.

I thank you for your work on it.

Mr. Lagomarsino.