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AMEMBASSY PANAMA
 AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
 AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
 USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 02270

USIA FOR P/G, P/PFL, P/M, VOA/BRL, AR
 STATE FOR ARA/P, ARA/CEN, PA, H
 AMEMBASSY FOR IO/PAO
 SOUTHCOM FOR PAO

E. O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PHUM, (MOAKLEY, JOE), U.S., ES
 SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY CODEL MOAKLEY AND TRANSCRIPT OF
 FOLLOWING PRESS CONFERENCE, SAN SALVADOR,
 FEBRUARY 14, 1990

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 1990, PRESS
 CONFERENCE GIVEN AT THE CAMINO REAL HOTEL, SAN
 SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, BY CONGRESSMAN JOE MOAKLEY
 ON BEHALF OF THE VISITING U.S. CONGRESSIONAL
 DELEGATION WHICH HE HEADED.

(BEGIN TEXT OF PREPARED STATEMENT)
 SHORTLY AFTER THE HEINOUS MURDERS OF SIX JESUIT
 PRIESTS, THEIR HOUSEKEEPER AND HER YOUNG DAUGHTER ON
 NOVEMBER 16, 1989, SPEAKER TOM FOLEY APPOINTED A
 SPECIAL TASK FORCE TO MONITOR THE SALVADORAN
 GOVERNMENT'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE MURDERS AND TO
 REPORT BACK TO HIM. THE REPUBLICAN LEADER IN
 CONGRESS, CONGRESSMAN ROBERT MICHEL, APPOINTED FIVE
 REPUBLICAN MEMBERS LED BY CONGRESSMAN BUD SHUSTER TO
 JOIN THE TASK FORCE AND TO VISIT EL SALVADOR.

WE HAVE JUST COMPLETED AN INTENSIVE, A VERY
 INTENSIVE, FOUR DAY VISIT TO THIS COUNTRY, AND DURING
 OUR STAY WE HAVE BEEN BRIEFED EXTENSIVELY BY OUR
 AMBASSADOR AND HIS STAFF, BY THE SPECIAL
 INVESTIGATIVE UNIT (SIU), HEADED BY COLONEL RIVAS,
 WHICH HAS CONDUCTED THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE
 MURDERS. WE HAVE MET WITH PRESIDENT CRISTIANI; THE
 ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, COLONEL PONCE; VICE MINISTER OF
 DEFENSE, COLONEL ZEPEDA; WITH THE JESUIT'S
 PROVINCIAL FOR CENTRAL AMEROCAN, FATHER TOJEIRA; THE
 JESUIT RECTOR OF UCA, FATHER ESTRADA; WITH
 ARCHBISHOP RIVERA Y DAMAS; THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND
 THE JUDGE HANDLING THIS CASE; WITH OTHER RELIGIOUS
 GROUPS; DEFENSE LAWYERS; AND EVEN CAPTURED FMLN
 FIGHTERS.

ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO
 EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO THE SALVADORAN
 GOVERNMENT, THE U.S. EMBASSY AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO
 THE SOCIETY OF JESUS, WHO HAVE SHARED WITH US BOTH
 THEIR PAIN AND THEIR WISDOM. OUR FOCUS IN THE
 MEETINGS HAS BEEN FOURFOLD:

- TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE INVESTIGATION HAS LED TO
 THE IDENTIFICATION OF ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
 MURDERS,
- TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER IT IS LIKELY THAT THEY WILL BE
 BROUGHT TO JUSTICE,
- TO GAUGE THE OVERALL CLIMATE OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN
 RIGHTS HERE IN EL SALVADOR, AND
- TO ASSESS THE PROSPECTS FOR AN END TO THE WAR AND A
 LASTING PEACE.

WITH RESPECT TO THE INVESTIGATION, WE BELIEVE THAT IT
 HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY GOOD POLICE WORK ON THE PART
 OF THE SIU AND WE COMMEND THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT FOR
 THIS. THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THIS CASE HAVE BEEN
 HANDLED VERY WELL.

WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE INVESTIGATION IS NOT OVER
 YET, AND THAT IMPORTANT LEADS AND ALLEGATIONS REMAIN TO
 BE FULLY INVESTIGATED, NAMELY REPORTS WHICH SUGGEST THAT
 THE INTELLECTUAL AUTHORS OF THE MURDERS MAY NOT HAVE
 BEEN IDENTIFIED AND SUGGESTIONS THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN
 A COVERUP OF THIS CRIME BY SOME IN THE ARMED FORCES. WE
 NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION THAT COLONEL PONCE TOLD US THAT
 NOT ONE PERSON IN THE MILITARY -- NOT ONE -- CAME
 FORWARD TO REPORT TO HIM THE COMPLICITY OF THE ARMY IN
 THE MURDERS. WE, THEREFORE, JOIN WITH OUR AMBASSADOR IN
 INSISTING THAT THESE SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS BE THOROUGHLY
 INVESTIGATED.

WITH RESPECT TO THE NEXT PHASE OF THE JUDICIAL PROCESS,
 WE FEAR THAT AVAILABLE EVIDENCE MAY BE INSUFFICIENT TO
 BRING ALL THE MURDERERS TO JUSTICE, AND WE ARE DEEPLY
 CONCERNED ABOUT THIS PROSPECT. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT
 CURRENT, AS WELL AS POSSIBLE NEW, EFFORTS BY THE UNITED
 STATES TO ASSIST IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY THE SALVADORAN
 GOVERNMENT IN ITS INVESTIGATORY AND JUDICIAL EFFORTS.

WITH RESPECT TO THE OVERALL CLIMATE OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN
 RIGHTS, WE HAVE STRONG CONCERNS. FIRST, WE CONDEMN --
 IN THE STRONGEST OF ALL POSSIBLE TERMS -- THE FMLN
 OFFENSIVE, FOR THE NEEDLESS BLOODSHED WHICH RESULTED IN
 PROSECUTING THE OFFENSIVE. THE FMLN IS GUILTY OF
 SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CAUSED A SERIOUS
 SETBACK TO THE PROSPECTS FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF
 THE WAR.

WITH REGARD TO THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES -- A CENTRAL
 QUESTION FOR THE TASK FORCE IS WHETHER THE HUMAN RIGHTS
 PROBLEMS IN EL SALVADOR -- INCLUDING THE KILLINGS OF THE
 JESUITS -- ARE THE ACTIONS OF A FEW RENEGADE MILITARY
 FIGURES OR WHETHER, IN FACT, THEY STEM FROM ATTITUDES
 AND ACTIONS THAT GO TO THE VERY HEART OF THE ARMED
 FORCES AND OTHER MAJOR INSTITUTIONS IN THIS COUNTRY.
 ENCOURAGING GENUINE CHANGE IN THESE INSTITUTIONS REMAINS
 THE GREATEST CHALLENGE FACING EL SALVADOR; A CHALLENGE
 THAT, DESPITE ENORMOUS INVESTMENTS OF MONEY AND EFFORT,
 HAS NOT YET BEEN FULLY MET. GIVEN THE TRAGEDY OF THE
 JESUIT CASE, IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT THE ARMED
 FORCES BE ABLE TO DISTINGUISH AS AN INSTITUTION BETWEEN
 THOSE WHO TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND THOSE
 WHOSE RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL CONVICTIONS SIMPLY PLACE
 THEM AT ODDS WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

LASTLY, WITH RESPECT TO THE PROSPECTS OF PEACE, WE
 BELIEVE THAT THE WAY TO END THE FIGHTING IS THROUGH

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TELEGRAM

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NEGOTIATIONS. BOTH HERE IN EL SALVADOR AND IN THE
UNITED STATES, THE CONGRESS IS URGED BY SOME TO END
MILITARY AID TO EL SALVADOR OR CONDITION AID ON PEACE
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT AND THE
FMLN. WE STRONGLY URGE THE OPENING OF HONEST DIALOGUE
THAT CAN LEAD TO AN END TO THE FIGHTING AND TO PEACE
WITH FREEDOM AND JUSTICE FOR ALL SALVADORANS.

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THANK YOU. AND ANY QUESTIONS WILL BE HANDLED BY
CONGRESSMAN SHUSTER OR MYSELF.

Q. CONGRESSMAN, ARE YOU ANY MORE SATISFIED WITH THE
INVESTIGATION IN THE KILLINGS NOW, THAN WHAT YOU WERE
WHEN YOU CAME HERE?

A. WELL, WE'RE SATISFIED THAT PRESIDENT CRISTIANI TOOK
A COURAGEOUS FIRST STEP, AND WE WANT HIM TO CONTINUE THE
INVESTIGATION. WE'RE NOT SATISFIED THAT THE
INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE FINALLY CONCLUDED.

Q. ARE YOU MORE SATISFIED NOW THAN YOU WERE BEFORE YOU
CAME?

A. WELL, TO A DEGREE. I STILL WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE
INVESTIGATION GO FURTHER. WHAT WE HAVE SEEN HERE JUST
ADDS TO WHAT WE HAD HEARD BACK IN THE STATES; THAT
THERE MIGHT BE OTHER PEOPLE INVOLVED.

Q. DO YOU CONTINUE TO SUSPECT THAT COLONEL BENAVIDES IS
NOT THE TOP MAN OF THESE KILLINGS?

A. WELL, THERE ARE ALLEGATIONS OUT THERE THAT MUST BE
PUSHED FORWARD.

Q. DID YOU GET ANY INFORMATION DURING YOUR MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT CRISTIANI THAT HE WOULD PURSUE THESE?

A. WE ASKED THOSE QUESTIONS AND HE SAID HE POSITIVELY
WOULD KEEP THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUING.

Q. CONGRESSMAN, DO YOU LEAVE HERE THINKING THAT SOME
TYPE OF CONDITIONING OR RESTRICTION ON THE DISBURSING OF
FUTURE MILITARY AID TO EL SALVADOR WOULD PROMOTE AN
HONEST DIALOGUE OR HONEST NEGOTIATION TOWARD ...?

A. WE HAVEN'T REACHED THAT CONCLUSION YET, -- WITH THE
JURY STILL OUT. WE HAVE SOME TASK FORCE MEMBERS WHO MET
AND STILL HAVEN'T REPORTED TO THE FULL COMMITTEE. BUT I
CAN SAY THIS, THAT MANY PEOPLE IN THE CONGRESS ARE
WATCHING THE RESULTS OF THIS TASK FORCE AND HOW THE
SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT WILL FINALLY CONCLUDE THE
INVESTIGATION INTO THE SIX JESUIT PRIESTS.

Q. HAVE YOU DEVELOPED ANY PERSONAL POSITION ON THIS
ISSUE YET?

A. I'M STILL OPEN ON THE ISSUE.

Q. COULD THIS KIND OF INQUIRY BE RESOLVED BEFORE THE
CONGRESS VOTES ON THE AID BILL?

A. I WOULD LOVE IT TO BE RESOLVED, BUT, UNFORTUNATELY,
THE SALVADORAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM HAS GOT A LOT OF BUILT-IN
ROAD BLOCKS THAT DIFFER GREATLY FROM THE UNITED STATES
JUDICIAL SYSTEM, AND I THINK THAT THAT'S WHERE THE
PROBLEM LIES.

Q. ARE THERE COMPLICATIONS THAT WILL NOT BE RESOLVED
BEFORE THE AID VOTE?

A. I WOULD BE VERY SURPRISED IF THERE IS.

Q. CONGRESSMAN, THE OTHER DAY YOU HEARD FROM WITNESSES
ABOUT THE KILLINGS IN CHALATENANGO ON SUNDAY. ARE YOU
MORE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THEIR VERSION OR THE ARMY
VERSION OF THE STORY?

A. WELL, ACTUALLY, ONE THING WE ARE NOT GOING TO DO IN
THIS TASK FORCE, AND THAT IS TO JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS. WE
HAVEN'T REALLY GOT ANY OFFICIAL REPORT. WE HEARD FROM
PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES, BUT BEFORE WE CAN MAKE ANY REPORT
WITH ANY JUSTIFICATION, I THINK IS ONLY FAIR TO ALL
THOSE INVOLVED THAT WE GET THE FULL REPORT.

Q. DID YOU TALK TO THE ARMY ABOUT THEIR VERSION ON THE
EVENTS?

A. WE TALKED TO THE ARMY, THEY STILL DON'T HAVE AN
OFFICIAL REPORT FOR US. WE ARE WAITING ALSO FOR AN
OFFICIAL REPORT FROM OUR EMBASSY.

Q. CONGRESSMAN, YOU SAID THAT SALVADORAN MILITARY
OFFICIALS MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN A COVERUP. HOW MUCH
DO YOU THINK AMERICAN OFFICIALS MIGHT BE IMPLICATED IN
THIS COVERUP?

A. ACTUALLY I WISH I HAD THE ANSWER. I DON'T KNOW WHO
IS INVOLVED. BUT ALLEGATIONS SHOW THAT THERE COULD BE
AN AUTHOR OF THESE KILLINGS THAT IS YET TO BE NAMED.

Q. DOES IT CONCERN YOU THAT, GOING BACK TO THE AID
VOTE, DOES IT CONCERN YOU THAT IF CONGRESS HAS TO TAKE
THE AID VOTE BEFORE THERE IS A RESOLUTION TO THIS
INVESTIGATION, THAT THE UNITED STATES PRESSURE (COULD
NOT BE CONCLUSIVE)?

A. NO, I THINK THERE WAS A LOT OF PRESSURE ON THIS. I
MEAN, EVERYONE IN THIS COMMISSION HAS SOME PRESSURE FROM
THE DISTRICT. THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES,

THAT THE KILLING OF THE JESUITS HAS REALLY GOTTEN THEIR
ATTENTION AS IT AFFECTS THE UNITED STATES INVOLVEMENT IN
EL SALVADOR. PEOPLE WHO NEVER THOUGHT TWICE ABOUT EL
SALVADOR ARE LOOKING VERY CLOSELY AT THE ACTIONS OF THE
SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT.

Q. I DIDN'T MAKE MYSELF CLEAR. THE QUESTION WAS:
WOULD IT CONCERN YOU THAT PRESSURE WOULD BE LESSENED ON
THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THIS INVESTIGATION
IF IT IS RESOLVED AFTER THE AID VOTE?

A. WELL, I THINK THAT THE AID IS (ALSO) ALWAYS A
PRESSURE POINT. AND I THINK THAT THE SALVADORAN
GOVERNMENT KNOWS HOW MUCH THE CONGRESS IS LOOKING AT
WHAT THEY ARE DOING, AND I KNOW IT IS A PRESSURED PART,
AND I JUST HOPE THAT SOMETHING IS RESOLVED SOON.

Q. CONGRESSMAN, IN EARLY JANUARY SOME AMERICANS ALREADY
KNEW THAT ARMY OFFICERS WERE BEING IMPLICATED IN THE
KILLINGS. AMBASSADOR WALKER APPARENTLY TOLD YOU THAT
THE FMLN COULD VERY WELL HAVE COMMITTED THOSE KILLINGS.
HAVE YOU TALKED TO THE AMBASSADOR HERE AND OTHERS IN THE
EMBASSY ABOUT THEIR CONDUCT DURING THIS INVESTIGATION?

A. WELL, TO BE VERY FAIR TO AMBASSADOR WALKER, HE SAID
THAT AT THIS STAGE ANYBODY COULD'VE BEEN INVOLVED, AND
HE SAID THAT MILITARY UNIFORMS HAD BEEN USED BY THE FMLN
BEFORE. HE DIDN'T HAVE THE INFORMATION IN HIS HAND AT
THAT TIME TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE MILITARY WAS

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IMPLICATED, AND I THINK AMBASSADOR WALKER WAS BEING
JUDICIOUS IN HIS STATEMENT TO ME AT THAT TIME.

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Q. BUT ANOTHER AMERICAN OFFICER HAD ALREADY GONE TO
SALVADORAN OFFICIALS AND TOLD THEM OF THE INFORMATION HE
HAD IMPLICATING COLONEL BENAVIDES AND OTHERS.

A. AMBASSADOR WALKER DID NOT HAVE THAT INFORMATION AT
THAT TIME WHEN HE AND I HAD THAT CONVERSATION.

Q. WERE YOU TROUBLED BY THE FACT THAT HE DID NOT HAVE
THE INFORMATION THAT OTHER AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAD AT THE
TIME?

A. WELL, I'M TROUBLED BY A LOT OF THINGS ON THE FLOW OF
INFORMATION. I THINK OUR INFORMATION COMES SLOW FROM
WHATEVER SOURCE, BUT IN THIS INSTANCE, I DID HAVE A LONG
TALK WITH AMBASSADOR WALKER, AND I AM ASSURED THAT HE
DID NOT HAVE THAT INFORMATION WHEN HE MADE THE STATEMENT
TO ME. (PAUSE) IS THAT IT? THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Q. ONE MORE QUESTION. IS IT TRUE THAT YESTERDAY, WHEN
ONE OF THE CONGRESSMEN WENT YESTERDAY TO THE SITE IN
CHALATENANGO THAT THEY FOUND PIECES OF A U.S. MADE
ROCKET NEARBY THE SITE WHERE FIVE PEOPLE WERE KILLED?

A. THAT IS TRUE, THERE WAS A PIECE OF A U.S. ROCKET
BROUGHT BACK. BUT AS I SAID, WE DON'T HAVE THE FINAL
REPORT; THEREFORE, THIS COMMISSION IS NOT GOING TO HAVE
ANY STATEMENT ON THAT INCIDENT AT THIS TIME. WE ARE
VERY SENSITIVE TO IT (THE INCIDENT), AND WE HAVE ASKED
EVERYBODY INVOLVED TO GET BACK TO US AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE, BUT I THINK IT WOULD NOT BE JUDICIOUS AT THIS
TIME TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT ON THAT. THANK YOU. JACOBS

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