

January 11, 1990

To: Jim McGovern  
From: Vic  
Subject: The Next Trip

I have been thinking about your questions about the next trip and would suggest the following.

Meetings and Timing

I think you could do it in two full (very full) days, but you might want to spill over to a third day.

One day should be organized by the Embassy, and one day should be organized by someone else and include all the meetings at which you don't want Embassy personnel present.

Day 1 should include: (1) Embassy meetings with Ambassador and political, legal (Chidester), and military people. This could be done in one big country-team setting or (my preference) in a series of separate meetings, one right after the other. This would be the only time you would have to be at the Embassy, and would keep you from having to bounce back and forth between the Embassy and other locations.

(2) GOES meetings: Cristiani; Ponce/High Command; SIU; Honor Board.

Day 2 should include: Tojeira/Estrada; site tour; Archbishop or Rosa Chavez, and maybe Maria Julia; possibly other persecuted church groups; Jemera if available; Zamora if available; possibly other witnesses that UCA could make available.

Jemera would be a dynamite person to set these meetings up. I'm not sure Leonel is the right person. But it has to be someone outside the Embassy, and no Embassy officer should be at any of these meetings.

Members should spend an evening with journalists at the hotel--the earlier in the trip the better, so that in their meetings members can raise questions raised by the journalists.

If the Ambassador wants to do a dinner on another evening that's OK; I don't find those things useful.

My ideal schedule would be this:

Fly down late one afternoon, check in and freshen up, then have the informal evening with journalists. This gives members the benefit of the journalists' thinking early on,

and keeps the journalists from trying to turn it into an interview of the members on their conclusions from the trip.

Then do days 1 and 2, as above. Neither of these could be a Sunday, but it might be possible for day 2 to be a Saturday.

Then do a day 3, consisting of: a wrap-up with the Embassy, where members can discuss their impressions of the trip; and a departure press conference, which would be very difficult to do on day 2 because when would there be time to draft the statement? Also could pick up those inevitable meetings that for one reason or another could not be scheduled on days 1 or 2. Could depart around noon.

### Staff

Staff will be less of a problem on the next trip because they won't say anything. Members will do all the talking; all you need for staff is extra vehicles and chairs. So it might not be terrible if you have to take a few more staff people along to satisfy members. Obviously, I'd love to go. But if you run into problems and have to sacrifice someone, leave me home; I'm not indispensable. I'm still pushing for Nancy, though.

### Translation

I have suggested to Mike that The Speaker ask that the delegation be accompanied by a professional State Department interpreter next time. That way you won't run into the problems we had. They are very good and nonpolitical.

TO: Jim  
FROM: Heather  
DATE: December 6, 1989  
RE: Afternoon appointment

Some thoughts....

- 1) Tell Zepeda upfront you want to share the time...to have him explain to you his concerns and to let you present yours. (It must make him rage inside to have to be accountable to so many different types in Washington...and to "young people" on top of that.)
- 2) Communicate the areas/breadth of Congressional concerns
- 3) On the Jesuit case, I'd zero in on responsibility and accountability for the investigation (which groups/institutions are responsible), what if any is their division of responsibilities/powers, and what is the Armed Forces' involvement or interaction so far with any of those having investigative responsibility. (What I haven't yet gotten a sense of is the degree to which Cristiani and others key in ARENA have given this case special attention, i.e. willing to go to the mat whatever the very high political costs in their relations with the Army.)

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NAME Jim McGovern

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FROM Heather Foote

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