

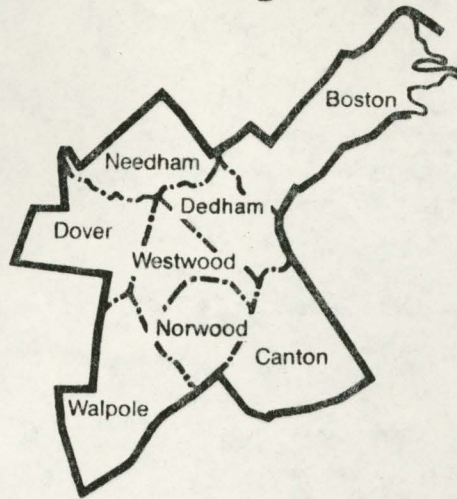
NEWS RELEASE

from Congressman Joe Moakley, 9th District, Massachusetts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: JOHN WEINFURTER
PRESS SECRETARY
(202) 225-8273



MOAKLEY CONDEMNS REAGAN'S DECISION TO "CERTIFY" CONDITIONS IN EL SALVADOR

Congressman Joe Moakley (D-MA) criticized the Reagan Administration's decision to "certify" the conditions in El Salvador. The President's certification would allow over \$26 million in military assistance to go to El Salvador. Moakley stated, "President Reagan, in keeping with the "certification" provision of the foreign assistance legislation passed by the Congress last year, should not have certified that the conditions in El Salvador are worthy of additional U.S. military aid." Moakley pointed out, "Almost every report coming out of El Salvador indicates that conditions are worsening."

The Congressman stated, "in light of gory recent reports and several testimonies of people who have fled El Salvador for their lives, we might ask, "how can the President, in good conscience, allow military aid to continue and increase?" Moakley added, "By militarily propping up a regime that oppressed and terrorizes its people, we, too, are contributing to that oppression."

Moakley said that there were some in the Administration who were attempting to justify American involvement in El Salvador as "a crusade to prevent that

country from falling into the hands of the communists." Moakley asserted, "the Reagan Administration is advancing the cause of communism while seeking to contain it in El Salvador. Communism can seem very attractive to an oppressed people, especially if that is the only alternative to the sustained oppression." He said, "Rather than trying to win the hearts of the Salvadoran people through food, medical supplies and development aid---we are instead, sending sophisticated arms to the Duarte government which has no respect for the basic civil and human rights of its people."

Moakley also stated, "Our policy toward El Salvador has become so distorted and so twisted that I fear unless immediate action is taken to end military assistance to that country we will soon find ourselves in an unnecessary and interminable war in Central America."

Moakley further stated, "I am appalled by the apparent insensitivity of the Reagan Administration toward the atrocities that are now occurring daily in El Salvador. The fact that the United States is militarily maintaining a regime that is oppressing its people is a betrayal of the very ideals of our founding fathers."

Moakley added his name as a cosponsor to Rep. Gerry Studds' (D-MA) resolution calling for a suspension of US military aid to El Salvador until the Senate and House have both concluded that the conditions established by law have truly been met.