Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

May, 1989

The Honorable Dante B. Fascell Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs House of Representatives U.S. Congress Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to express our hope that U.S. policy toward El Salvador and the U.S. aid that is used to implement it can promote a negotiated settlement to the civil war and help establish a rule of law. We are deeply concerned over recent human rights violations by both the FMLN and the Salvadoran military, and believe that a settlement to the war is a precondition for an end to these atrocities.

We believe that Congress has a responsibility to ensure that U.S. aid is designed to encourage progress toward achieving these goals. In no other country in the world is our aid as large a share of the recipient government's budget as it is in El Salvador.

The incoming government in El Salvador will face a number of crucial choices in the months ahead, such as how vigorously to pursue a negotiated settlement to the war and whether to prosecute military officers for abuses of human rights. We believe that President Bush and Vice-President Quayle have made an encouraging start by sending a strong message of support for negotiations and respect for human rights in recent meetings with Salvadoran leaders.

We believe Congress should reinforce this message by providing aid in stages, after assessing the efforts made by the Salvadoran Government.

For that reason, we support the action by the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee to provide military aid to El Salvador every six months <u>only</u> after a reprogramming review by the authorizing and appropriating Committees.

We would be extremely reluctant to support any weaker measure on the floor of the House.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We look forward to continuing to work closely with you to help bring El Salvador's nine-year nightmare to a peaceful resolution.

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