



March 24, 1991

Dear Congressman Moakley:

The purpose of this letter is to give you an update on the Jesuit Case in El Salvador.

We last met in January and I appreciated your insights on the Southern Region and El Salvador in particular. Your concern for the families of the servicemen just murdered by the FMLN insurgents was also greatly appreciated.

In our discussion on El Salvador you brought up the Jesuit Case as an issue that required immediate attention. Like you, I was appalled at the brutal murders of the Jesuits and too want just done. Like you, I want progress in the judicial process and those responsible brought to justice. When I asked you what one thing I could do to demonstrate movement on the Jesuit Case you said, "Get General Ponce to testify in person before the judge."

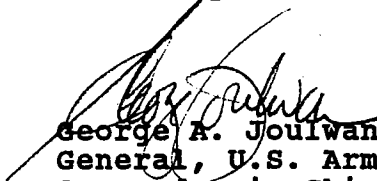
In late January I held a long meeting with Minister of Defense Ponce. In that meeting the entire conversation was on the Jesuit Case. I told General Ponce he should testify in person before Judge Zamora and offer total cooperation by the El Salvador Armed Forces.

I am pleased to report to you that General Ponce has done just that. He has agreed to testify in person before Judge Zamora and has called the Judge and so informed him. General Ponce told me he has instructed that officers involved in the case also will testify in person, and he has counseled his officers -- particularly those mentioned in the letter

of 22 February 1991 to the Minister of Justice -- to be forthcoming and cooperative. A copy of the 22 February letter and an informal translation are attached. In addition, Ponce is calling back potential witnesses in Costa Rica and the United States. Every indication we have so far is that General Ponce and his staff will do what they say they will do to move the investigation forward.

I personally am reporting these facts to you as follow-up to our meeting. I hope that this information is useful and thank you again for taking the time to see me last January.

Sincerely,



George A. Joulwan
General, U.S. Army
Commander in Chief

Encl
as

Honorable John J. Moakley
221 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2109

DEFENSE AND PUBLIC SECURITY
MINISTRY
REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR C.A.

Mr. Minister:

By means of this letter we address you to let you know we are aware of the transcendental and social commotion originated by the case of the six Jesuit Priests and their two collaborators. Therefore, since the judicial process which is being followed has not yet concluded, we as members of the high command of the Armed Forces have seriously considered the need to complete a complementary investigation that could help shed light on such a delicate case.

As you are aware, our entire country and particularly the Armed Forces are undergoing dramatic consequences generated by this lamentable incident. The responsibility for planning and executing the action against the lives of the Jesuit priests cannot be blamed on the military institution. Some of the facts about events that lead up to the incident need to be expounded upon. For that reason we request further investigation of the following information by the Executive Unit of the Commission on Criminal Acts:

1. Regarding the meeting and related matters that were effected at the Military School during the night of November 15, 1989, or any other event at the Military School that might have taken place prior to the previously mentioned meeting and that might be related to the subject; said meeting was chaired by Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides Moreno with the participation of the Security Command Staff, Military Complex, and Officers who were in charge of the Military School as follows:

a. Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Camilo Hernandez Barahona, Deputy Director, Military School, and Chief of Staff, Security Command, Military Complex.

b. Major Herbert Oswaldo Vides Lucha, Commander, Cadets Corp Battalion, Military School, with duties as S-11 for the Staff.

c. Major Miguel Castillo Gonzalez, S-111 for the Staff.

d. Captain Jose Fuentes Rodas, Assisting S-11 and Commander, Cadet Corp Company, Military School.

e. Captain Francisco Monico Gallardo Mata, S-IV for the Staff and in charge of Supply Stores, Military School.

0000000000

f. First Lieutenant Nelson Alberto Barra Zamora, Assistant Administrator, Military School, and S-1 (personnel).

g. First Lieutenant Yushsy Rene Mendoza Vallecillos, Commander, 3rd Cadet Corp, Military School.

h. Captain Rene Lopez Morales, Company Commander, Cadet Corp, Military School.

i. First Lieutenant Mario Alberto Arevalo Melendez, Section Commander, Military School.

j. Second Lieutenant Jose Vicente Hernandez Ayala, Section Commander, Military School.

At present and at his request, Captain Jose Fuentes Rodas has been discharged.

2. Amplify testimonies of Colonel Carlos Mauricio Guzman Aquilar and First Lieutenant Hector Ulises Cuenca Ocampo, both from DEM; in order to clarify what were the causes that influenced or motivated the participation of Intelligence personnel in the search of the Centro Americana University (UCA) "Jose Simeon Cañas", on November 13, 1989; as well as that related to the meeting that took place at the National Intelligence Directorate on the morning of November 16, 1989.

Awaiting a favorable response to this request, we remain at your order.

GOD, UNION AND LIBERTY

(The signature of three Generals and two Colonels follows.)

0000000000

MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA
Y DE SEGURIDAD PUBLICA
REPUBLICA DE EL SALVADOR. C. A.

DEPTO. AYUD. SEC. EST.

REG. REP/JOZ

ARCHIVO

San Salvador, 22 de Febrero de 1991

ASUNTO:

SEÑOR MINISTRO:

Por este medio nos dirigimos a usted para exponerle que estando conscientes de la trascendencia y connotación social originada por el caso de los seis sacerdotes jesuitas y sus dos colaboradores, y dado que el proceso judicial que se instruye al respecto aún no ha concluido, como miembros del Alto Mando de la Fuerza Armada, hemos considerado de urgente necesidad la realización de algunas investigaciones complementarias que pudieran ayudar al esclarecimiento de la verdad en este delicado caso.

No está fuera de su conocimiento, las dramáticas consecuencias que para nuestro país en general y para la Fuerza Armada en particular, está generando este lamentable suceso y teniendo la plena seguridad de que institucionalmente no existe responsabilidad en la planificación, ni en la ejecución del hecho contra la vida de los sacerdotes jesuitas, pero existen algunos eventos previos al mencionado hecho que a pesar de lo actuado pudieran ampliarse, por este medio le solicitamos que a través de la Unidad Ejecutiva de la Comisión de Hechos Delictivos, se profundice la investigación en los aspectos siguientes:

- 1.- Sobre lo tratado en la reunión que se realizó en la Escuela Militar durante la noche del 18 de noviembre de 1989, o cualquier otro suceso ocurrido dentro de la Escuela Militar anterior a la misma, que pudiera tener relación con el he-

MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA
Y DE SEGURIDAD PÚBLICA.
REPUBLICA DE EL SALVADOR, C. A.

- 2 -

cho; dicha reunión fue dirigida por el Coronel Guillerme Alfredo Benavides Moreno con la participación de la Plana Mayor del Comando de Seguridad del Complejo Militar, y oficiales que se encontraban de alta en la Escuela Militar, siendo los siguientes:

- a.- Señor Teniente Coronel Carlos Camilo Hernández Barahona, Sub-Director de la Escuela Militar y Jefe de la Plana Mayor del Comando de Seguridad del Complejo Militar,
- b.- Señor Mayor Herbert Oswaldo Vides Lucha, Comandante del Batallón de Caballeros Cadetes de la Escuela Militar, con funciones de S-11 de la Plana Mayor,
- c.- Señor Mayor Miguel Castillo González, S-111 de la Plana Mayor,
- d.- Señor Capitán José Fuentes Rodas, Auxiliar del S-11 y Comandante de Compañía de Caballeros Cadetes de la Escuela Militar,
- e.- Señor Capitán Francisco Mónico Gallardo R. de la Plana Mayor y Guarda Almacén de la Escuela Militar,
- f.- Señor Teniente Nelson Alberto Barro Zamora, Ayudante de la Dirección de la Escuela Militar y S-1 (personal),
- g.- Señor Teniente Yushy René Mandoza Vallacillos, Comandante de la 3a. Compañía de Caballeros Cadetes de la Escuela Militar,
- h.- Señor Capitán René López Morales, Comandante de Compañía de Caballeros Cadetes de la Escuela Militar,
- i.- Señor Teniente Mario Alberto Aníbal Meléndez, Comandante de Sección de la Escuela Militar,
- j.- Señor Subteniente José Vicente Hernández Ayala, Comandante de Sección de la Escuela Militar,

Actualmente se encuentra de baja el Señor Capitán José Fuentes Rodas, por haberlo solicitado.

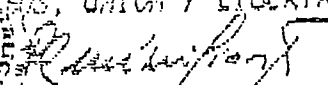
- 2.- Ampliar declaraciones de los Señores Coronel D. Carlos Muciel Guzmán Aguilón y Teniente Néstor Uscasa Cuena Cuervo; en el sentido de aclarar entre elementos de juicio instruyeron o motivaron la participación de personal de Intendencia


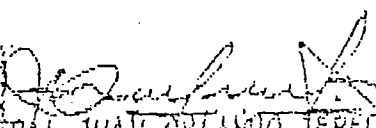
MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA
Y DE SEGURIDAD PUBLICA
REPUBLICA DE EL SALVADOR. C. A.


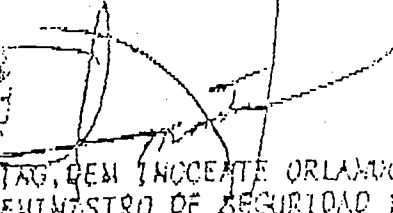
- 3 -

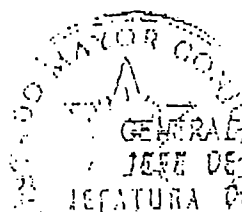
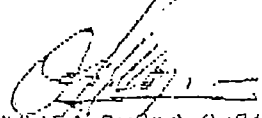
cia, en el caso de la Universidad Centroamericana "José Si-
meón Cañas" (UCA), el día 13 de noviembre de 1989; así co-
mo lo referente a la reunión efectuada en la Dirección Na-
cional de Inteligencia, en la mañana del 16 de noviembre de
1989.

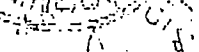
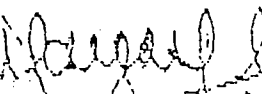
En espera de una atención favorable a la presen-
te petición, nos es grato suscribirnos a sus apreciables órde-
nes.

UNION Y LIBERTAD

GENERAL RENE EMILIO PONCE,
MINISTRO DE DEFENSA Y DE
SEGURIDAD PUBLICA



GENERAL JUAN ORLANDO IEPEDA,
VICEMINISTRO DE DEFENSA



GENERAL IGNACIO INOCENTE ORLANDO MONTANO,
VICEMINISTRO DE SEGURIDAD PUBLICA



GENERAL GILBERTO RUBIO RUBIO,
JEFE DEL ESTADO MAYOR CONJUNTO
COMANDO EN JEFE DE LA FUERZA ARMADA



CORONEL ERASMO VARGA,
SUB-JEFE DEL ESTADO MAYOR CONJUNTO DE
LA FUERZA ARMADA

AL SEÑOR MINISTRE DE JUSTICIA
Y PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISION
INVESTIGADORA DE HECHOS DELICTIVOS.
DOCTOR RENE HERNANDEZ VALENTE.

CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOSEPH
MOAKLEY PAPERS
MS 100