

JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
9TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON RULES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RULES OF THE HOUSE

CHAIRMAN

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND
POLICY COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

JOHN WEINFURTER
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

221 CANNON BUILDING
(202) 225-8273

ROGER KINEAVY
DISTRICT MANAGER

1900C-JFK BUILDING
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203
(617) 223-5715

January 28, 1982

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It is reported that you plan to have a battalion of 1,000 Salvadoran soldiers and a group of 500 to 600 Salvadoran officers trained in the United States. On January 9, 1982, the first of that group -- 60 sergeants and officers -- arrived at Fort Bragg, North Carolina to begin 16 weeks of basic infantry training with the Green Berets. I am writing to register my strong objection to this action.

Mr. President, I have read numerous accounts and reports of the conditions and the political situation in El Salvador. Every one of these reports leads me to believe, beyond a doubt, that the present government lacks respect for the basic human and civil rights of its people. In fact, a recent report of the United Nations Human Rights Commission estimates that well over 9,000 political murders were committed in the first six months of 1981 alone. It seems to me that by militarily supporting the present Salvadoran government and, now, by training Salvadoran soldiers in the United States ~~that~~ we are contributing to the oppression that already exists. We are, in essence, training Salvadoran troops to oppress their own people. We are certainly not preserving the Salvadoran people's right to freedom of speech or self-determination. As I am sure you are aware, the people of El Salvador do not enjoy such luxuries. What we are, in fact, doing is forcing the Salvadoran people to hate and reject the United States just as much as they depise their present government. Our support of this government, through military means, is nothing short of unconscionable.

I am also terribly concerned ^{over the fact} that the United States military involvement in El Salvador has increased so rapidly. The parallels between our involvement in Vietnam and our present policy toward El Salvador are uncanny. I am fearful that in the not too distant future we will see the first American soldier come home from El Salvador in a coffin.

The President
January 28, 1982
page 2

I urge you to reconsider the decision to train Salvadoran troops in the United States and to lessen American military involvement in that country.

Sincerely,

JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
Member of Congress

DRAFT OF LETTER TO RONALD REAGAN

OK
John

Dear Mr. President:

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to ~~begin~~ begin 16 weeks of basic infantry training with the best results.

United

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~~I am~~ ^{also} terribly concerned ^{also} that the United States' military involvement in ~~the Salvadoran conflict~~ ^{El Salvador} has increased so rapidly. The parallels between our involvement in Vietnam and our present policy toward El Salvador are uncanny. I am fearful that in the not too distant future we will see the first American soldier ~~coming~~ ^{come} home in a coffin.

come from El Salvador

I urge you to reconsider the decision to train Salvadoran troops in the United States and to ~~eventually~~ ^{eventually} lessen American military involvement in that country.

Sincerely,

JJM
MOC

JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
9TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

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February 1, 1982

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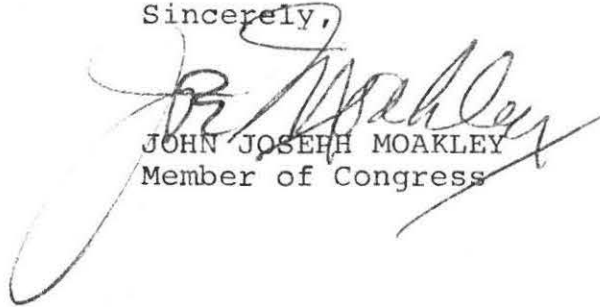
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The President
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I urge you to reconsider the decision to train Salvadoran troops in the United States and lessen American military involvement in that country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Moakley", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large loop at the end.

JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
Member of Congress

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500