



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

MARCH 5 1982

Dear Mr. Moakley:

I am pleased to respond to your February 1 letter to President Reagan. You expressed deep concern with the training of Salvadoran military personnel in the United States and the continued US support of the Government of El Salvador.


With respect to the latter point, I am enclosing a copy of the "Justification" that formed the basis for President Reagan's recent Determination to authorize continued assistance for El Salvador. In addition, I am enclosing a copy of Ambassador Enders' February 2 statement before the House Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs. These two documents will provide you with the Administration's most recent and detailed rationale for continued assistance.

The training requested by the Salvadoran government consists of two courses which began in January; a four-month Officer Candidate School (OCS) course for 496 cadets of the Salvadoran military academy and a four month basic infantry course (not a "guerrilla warfare" course) for the 995 officers and men of a new rapid reaction infantry battalion. The OCS course is offered at Ft. Benning, Georgia. The battalion is being trained at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. The OCS training is designed to meet the Salvadoran Army's urgent need for additional junior officers to permit better control of its combat units. The rapid reaction battalion will provide the flexible force needed to counter the hit-and-run tactics of the Marxist guerrillas who are trained and supported by Nicaragua and Cuba.

Training these units in the US offers us an opportunity to contribute significantly to the increased professionalism of the Salvadoran armed forces. Indeed, a central theme in both courses is the importance of human rights and the need to avoid abuses against the civilian populace, particularly

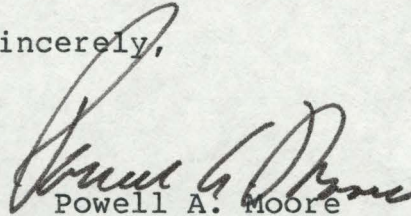
The Honorable  
John Joseph Moakley,  
House of Representatives.





in a counterinsurgency situation. We believe this training will enable the Salvadoran Army to protect its citizens more effectively against insurgent attacks designed to disrupt important economic and social reforms of the GOES and to undermine the political process underway which will permit the Salvadoran people to choose their own democratic government.

Sincerely,



Powell A. Moore  
Assistant Secretary for  
Congressional Relations

Enclosures:

As stated.

