

MEMO

TO: JJM

FR: Jim McGovern

RE: Baker Meeting

Points to keep in mind....

1. We welcome the opportunity to discuss policy options in El Salvador. A number of Members have already approached me about offering amendments to various appropriations and authorization bills to cut off all the aid or to cut off some of the aid. We have agreed to put everything on hold, pending the outcome of our talks with you.

2. I want very much to get a bipartisan consensus on US policy towards El Salvador. **But, an approach that relies exclusively on conditioning aid, without any cuts, I believe will run into trouble up here.**

3. I personally favor an approach similar to the Dodd bill -- which would cut 50% of the aid up front and conditions everything to negotiations. It puts pressure on both the FMLN and the Government. It's even-handed.

4. I think the only thing that will make the Salvadoran military take negotiations seriously is a cut in aid. I'm not saying a total cut-- rather a partial cut. There is no incentive, as things now stand, for them to negotiate. In fact, despite all our threats, there doesn't seem to be much incentive for them to bring to justice those responsible for murdering the Jesuits.

5. The Salvadoran military, as an institution, is still the biggest problem. For them, the war is profitable. Why should they give that up? I think we need to show them that we are not willing to bankroll this thing for another 10 years.

6. I like Cristiani -- I think he's a good man. But, if you think he's calling the shots-- you're crazy. In January, he told us that all the killers of the Jesuits would be brought to justice. Now, he's backing down a little, and saying he's not confident of that anymore.

7. I hate the FMLN -- and think their offensive was the ultimate in stupidity. The numbers of people who were killed is intolerable. But, the only way this thing will end is through a negotiated settlement -- and we need to get a consensus on how best to foster that result.

\*.... One more point... as you know, I have been chair of the Speaker's Special Task Force on El Salvador -- and I think I've been pretty even-handed and fair. The task force is preparing to issue a report -- hopefully within the next few weeks on where we think things are in the Jesuit investigation and other related matters. I want to be fair. But to do so I need the cooperation of the State Department. On some matters, you guys have been good. But on the issue of cable traffic -- you've been not so good. We originally requested cables back on December 21, 1989. I have resubmitted my request, in accordance with the request of the State Department, a few weeks ago. To date, I have received nothing except assurances that "you're working things out." I want to work with you -- but I think it's only fair that you work with me. Can you put in a good word for me?