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July 26, 1990

The Honorable James A. Baker, III  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

There has been a great deal of discussion surrounding the allegations of Mr. Cesar Vileman Joya Martinez, a deserter from the Salvadoran military, concerning the alleged operation of a death squad within the Salvadoran First Brigade during the 1988-89 period. I believe, given the serious nature of the charges, that a full and thorough investigation is warranted to substantiate or disprove Joya Martinez' account.

In January, members of the Speaker's Task Force on El Salvador met with Joya Martinez. We found his comments to be detailed and consistent with previous statements he has made.

Despite this, I am not prepared to make a judgment on the allegations made by Joya Martinez. Instead, I believe further investigation is required to determine the facts. Obviously, the Administration is in a better position than we in Congress to investigate the validity of Joya Martinez' allegations and I would appreciate receiving a detailed description of your efforts towards this end. I also believe that further direct questioning of Joya Martinez would be helpful.

When Congress reconvenes in September, I intend -- under the auspices of the Speaker's Task Force on El Salvador -- to get a small, private, bipartisan group to question Joya Martinez at length. I would like to invite the Administration to participate in this meeting and help us in our deliberations. I appreciate the sensitive nature of this issue and am willing to take every possible step to assure that we proceed in a correct manner. I would, therefore, insist that Joya Martinez be allowed to have his counsel present during all questioning.

I would appreciate your consideration of this matter and would welcome your comments.

Sincerely,

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CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOSEPH  
MOAKLEY PAPERS  
MS 100