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United States Department of State

*Under Secretary of State  
for Political Affairs*

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

March 16, 1990

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*7:02 pm*  
House Rules Committee  
H-312

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I want to confirm our earlier conversation regarding the Department's intention to be as responsive as possible in providing information to the Task Force established to look into the investigation of the killing of the Jesuit priests in El Salvador. We want to provide Congress with the information necessary to carry out its functions, consistent with the constitutional responsibilities of the Executive Branch.

We are prepared to answer questions posed by the Task Force and to provide detailed briefings to Members of Congress and their staffs. To date, we have provided a detailed chronology of the investigation of the crime, including actions taken by El Salvador's Special Investigative Unit, the Salvadoran government and Armed Forces, the Department, and Embassy San Salvador. We provided responses to the December 20 list of questions regarding all aspects of the investigation and the efforts of the Embassy and the Department to promote and assist that investigation. Department officers have given a number of briefings to Members and staff on the investigation and the crime. We supported the staff delegation to El Salvador, providing Embassy briefings and arranging appointments with senior Salvadoran officials. We gave similar support to the large Congressional delegation to El Salvador that you headed last month.

Your Task Force originally asked for a broad range of Executive Branch documents. As we discussed earlier, should you identify certain cables or other documents that you believe would provide further specific information necessary for the Task Force's work, we would be prepared to make available such

The Honorable  
John Joseph Moakley,  
Chairman, Committee on Rules,  
House of Representatives.

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documents on an exceptional basis for Members to read, consistent with the protection of Executive Branch constitutional responsibilities.

I reiterate our intention to be as helpful as possible to the efforts of the Task Force.

Sincerely yours,

  
Robert M. Kimmitt

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