Maryhania

## for release August 10, 1983

For more information, contact: Robert P. Burke (617) 742-2120

## UUSC-SPONSORED CONGRESSIONAL FACT-FINDING MISSION FROM NEW ENGLAND INSPECTING COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA AND EL SALVADOR

A bipartisan delegation which will include members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives today began a seven-day fact-finding mission organized by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to Costa Rica, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Sens. Paul Tsongas, D-Massachusetts and John Chafee, R-Rhode Island, and Rep. James Shannon, D-Massachusetts, are among the 16-member delegation of public officials and distinguished New England citizens led to the region by John J. McAward, the Service Committee's human rights education director.

"UUSC believes that the Congress and the American public have the right and the responsibility to a balanced view of all the facts about this crisis-torn region," said Dr. Richard S. Scobie, executive director of the Service Committee. "The result is a better informed public and government making these important policy decisions."

Sens. Tsongas and Chafee will be represented by staff in El Salvador, and will take part personally in the mission in Nicaragua. Rep. Shannon and the remainder of the delegation will cover the entire itinerary.

In each country, the delegation will meet the head of state and U.S. ambassador. The Service Committee also is arranging meetings for the delegation with other important government leaders, military officers, officials of the Catholic church, peasants and refugees.

This is the ninth Congressional fact-finding mission to the region sponsored by the Service Committee, a non-sectarian, nonprofit organization founded in 1939 and dedicated to enhancing the economic, social, civil and political rights of people throughout the world.

The delegation also includes:

 Dr. Mary Ellen Avery, physician in chief of Children's Hospital in Boston and professor at Harvard Medical School; may. ro, root. over mission of contrar instruct

- Dr. Robert Coles, professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and noted author;
- Nicholas Gage, author of the recent book <u>Eleni</u> on the 1940s communist insurrection in Greece;
- Doris Kearns Goodwin, author, historian and commentator for WCVB-TV, Boston;
- Christopher Lydon, news anchor for public television station
  WGBH-TV in Boston and former newspaper reporter;
- William Otis Taylor, publisher of the Boston <u>Globe</u> and chairman of Affiliated Publications, Inc.;
- Philippe Villers, founder of Automatix, Inc., a robotics manufacturer, and of the Villers Foundation;
- Mortimer Zuckerman, chairman of the <u>Atlantic Monthly</u> magazine and founder of Boston Properties, Inc.

###