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One Hundred Third Congress

Congress of the United States

Committee on Foreign Affairs

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

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REPUBLICAN CHIEF OF STAFF

March 26, 1993

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to request your assistance in clarifying the U.S. government's knowledge of events in El Salvador from 1980 to 1991.

In a report published last week, the independent Commission on the Truth concluded that Salvadoran security forces, "death squads" with ties to the security forces, and FMLN rebels were responsible for thousands of civilian deaths during El Salvador's civil war.

Given this massive civilian toll and the extensive assistance granted by the United States to the Salvadoran government, we have an obligation to provide the most complete possible public accounting of what U.S. government officials knew, and when they knew, about the 32 human rights cases investigated by the Truth Commission. What the Truth Commission wrote about El Salvador applies equally well to the United States: "Bitter though the truth may prove to be in some cases, recognizing what happened in El Salvador is the first essential step to assuring that it will not happen again."

We commend Secretary of State Warren Christopher for his decision to appoint a distinguished panel to examine the State Department's activities during this period. We hope you will direct all national security agencies of the United States to cooperate fully with this important State Department initiative.

In addition to the State Department inquiry, we urge you to move immediately to secure, and then to review for declassification in an expedited fashion, all U.S. government documentary material relevant to the 32 human rights cases investigated by the Truth Commission. A list of these specific cases is attached.

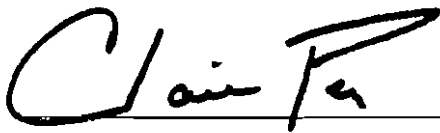
In our view, the material reviewed for declassification should include, but not be limited to, diplomatic cables, embassy reporting, intelligence agency reporting, finished policy or intelligence memoranda, audio tapes, and computer records. We urge you to apply to this material a standard of review that will ensure the maximum possible disclosure, consistent with the protection of intelligence sources and methods. We also request the preparation of an index of all relevant material that is not ultimately declassified.

The Honorable William J. Clinton
March 26, 1993
Page Two

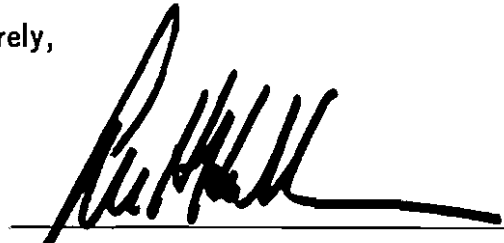
Our objective in making these requests is to bring into the open the facts about U.S. government knowledge of events in El Salvador, and to let the facts speak for themselves. Just as Salvadorans needed to know the truth about the crimes committed in their country to prevent their recurrence, Americans need to know what their government knew about these crimes to determine if mistakes were made and, if so, to ensure that they are not repeated.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Sen. Claiborne Pell



Rep. Lee H. Hamilton



Sen. Dennis DeConcini



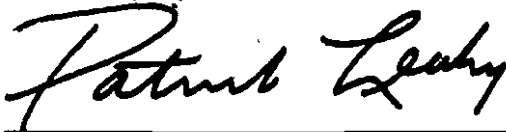
Rep. John Joseph Moakley



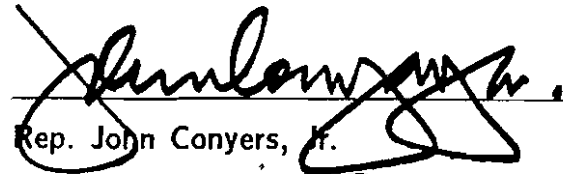
Sen. Christopher J. Dodd



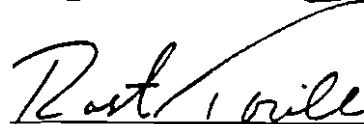
Rep. Dan Glickman



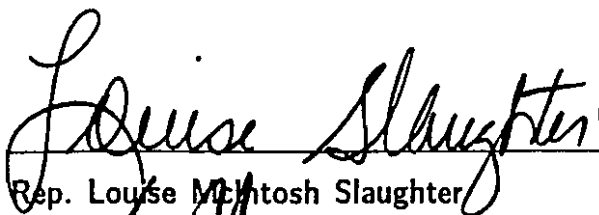
Sen. Patrick J. Leahy



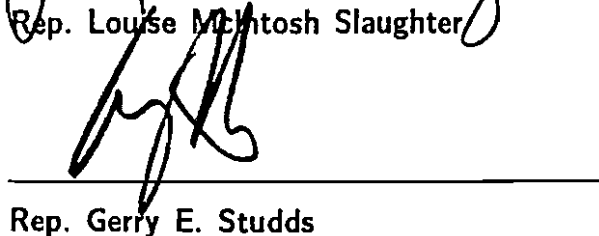
Rep. John Conyers, Jr.



Rep. Robert G. Torricelli


Rep. Louise McIntosh Slaughter

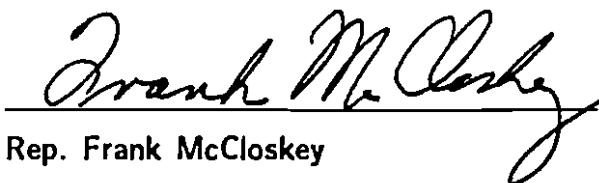

Rep. George Miller


Rep. Gerry E. Studds


Rep. Nancy Pelosi


Rep. H. Martin Lancaster


Rep. Jim McDermott


Rep. Frank McCloskey


Rep. Tom Lantos

**HUMAN RIGHTS CASES INVESTIGATED
BY THE TRUTH COMMISSION**

1. Killing of six Jesuit priests

Extra-Judicial Killings

2. San Francisco Guajoyo
3. Six leaders of the Democratic Revolutionary Front
4. Four U.S. churchwomen
5. El Junquillo
6. Four Dutch journalists
7. Attack on FMLN hospital and execution of a nurse
8. Las Hojas
9. San Sebastian
10. Garcia Arandigoyen
11. FENASTRAS and COMADRES
12. Hector Oqueli

Forced Disappearances

13. Ventura and Mejia
14. Rivas Hernandez
15. Chan Chan and Massi

Massacres of Peasants by the Army

16. El Mozote
17. Rio Sumpul
18. El Calabozo

Death Squad Killings

19. Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero
20. Mario Zamora
21. Tehuicho
22. Killing of agrarian reform advisers at Sheraton Hotel

Violence by the FMLN

23. Murder of mayors
24. Zona Rosa
25. Herbert Ernesto Anaya Sanabria
26. Napoleon Romero Garcia (Miguel Castellanos)
27. Francisco Peccorini Lettona
28. Attorney General Jose Roberto Garcia Alvarado
29. Jose Francisco Guerrero
30. Two U.S. survivors of a helicopter shot down by the FMLN
31. Kidnapping of Ines Duarte and Villeda
32. Murder of a judge in Carolina