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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

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STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The Departments of State and Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency have delivered today to the Chairmen of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee more than 12,000 unclassified or declassified documents related to 32 Salvadoran human rights cases which occurred during the period 1980-91 and which were investigated by the Truth Commission. The agencies have also made arrangements to enable appropriately cleared Congressional staff to review certain material which remains classified.

These actions fulfill a commitment President Clinton made to Senator Pell, Congressman Hamilton and several of their colleagues in June when he directed the three agencies to review rapidly their documentary holdings with the aim of declassifying and releasing as many documents as possible consistent with national security, statutory and related considerations. The release of these documents underscores the Administration's continuing commitment to open government.

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