From the Archivist

The John Joseph Moakley Archive and Institute is dedicated to preserving and promoting the legacy of Congressman Joe Moakley. A recent focus has been Congressman Moakley’s human rights legacy, specifically his work on behalf of the people of El Salvador. On November 14, 2003, the Moakley Archive and Institute sponsored its first symposium and opened its second exhibit, *El Congresista Moakley: Joe Moakley en El Salvador*. In the spirit of the Moakley Institute’s mission, the symposium panel discussions not only looked back in remembrance but also sought lessons and inspiration for the present and future. Suffolk University honored Congressman Moakley’s humanitarian legacy at the gala reception following the symposium.

MCGOVERN RECEIVES HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Moakley Archive and Institute honored U.S. Rep. James P. McGovern with the John Joseph Moakley Humanitarian Award recognizing dedication to the cause of human rights. In honoring McGovern, Suffolk University President David J. Sargent said: “Joe would be absolutely thrilled if he knew who the first honoree would be: someone who was like a son, brother, best friend and wise counsel to him. Jim McGovern is a steadfast and outspoken defender of human rights, and, what’s more, he’s been getting results for people for more than 20 years. We are proud to recognize his tremendous accomplishments as a champion of people everywhere.”

McGovern received what will be an annual award at a ceremony following the November symposium marking the 14th anniversary of the Jesuit murders in El Salvador.

“Joe Moakley was my boss, my mentor, my inspiration and my friend. And I miss him every day. To receive this award—named in his memory—is a great thrill,” said McGovern. “Suffolk is doing an extraordinary job of maintaining Joe’s legacy—a legacy that I know will inspire countless young people to dedicate their lives to public service.”

McGovern has been involved in human rights efforts on behalf of Latin Americans since the early 1980s. He worked closely with Salvadoran constituents on immigration issues.

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Exhibit Portrays History and Hope

Moakley Institute volunteer Emily Moore contemplates the Salvadoran Civil War as portrayed by *El Congresista: Joe Moakley en El Salvador* at Suffolk University Law School’s Adams Gallery. The exhibit, which focuses on the conflict’s impact on the Salvadoran people through photos and documents drawn from the Moakley Archive, will travel to sites throughout Massachusetts. Schedules for this and the Institute and Archive’s first traveling exhibit, *John Joseph Moakley: In Service to His Country*, may be found at www.joemoakley.org.

MCGOVERN, continued on page 2
as chief of staff to Congressman Moakley, then served as the late congressman's point man in the investigation into military involvement in the 1989 Jesuit slayings in El Salvador.

As a congressman, McGovern persists in keeping a watchful eye on U.S. military policy, speaking out against its increasing involvement in Colombia and advocating for support of human rights for Colombia’s people. He has stood against the federal government’s Cuba policy, saying that economic sanctions and isolation have been unsuccessful and may have a negative effect on human rights in the island nation.

U.S. Rep. James P. McGovern holds a collage of images representing his work with Joe Moakley—a gift of appreciation for McGovern’s assistance with the symposium and exhibit exploring El Salvador and the efforts of the Moakley Commission. He was the first recipient of the John Joseph Moakley Humanitarian Award.

ARCHIVE DONORS THANKED

Ed Cozzy, Fran Price, Carol Pryor, Anne Wheelock and Ginny Zanger of the Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America also were recognized at the ceremony, as was documentary filmmaker Esther Cassidy, whose film, Enemies of War, depicts the struggle in El Salvador and the work of the Moakley Commission.

The Jamaica Plain Committee has donated materials to the Archive, and its members have participated in the Archive’s Oral History project. Some of the Committee’s donated letters are included in the El Congresista: Joe Moakley in El Salvador exhibit.

Esther Cassidy has donated audio- and videotapes, transcriptions and other records from the making of her documentary, Enemies of War, to the Moakley Archive.

Cassidy, who worked closely with Joe Moakley during the filming, called him for advice on where she should donate those materials, and he suggested they should be housed at Suffolk University with his own papers. “He was delighted to have me choose Suffolk,” she said.

“I couldn’t believe how much fun he was,” said Cassidy, who said she was lucky to have likable interview subjects such as Moakley in a film such as a weighty subject. “The characters in the film were so personable,” she said.

But her intent in making the documentary was to raise issues, so she was quite pleased when former Ambassador to El Salvador William Walker strongly criticized points made by the film during a symposium panel discussion. “I wanted the film to stimulate serious discussions and engagement about El Salvador’s civil war and the role our country played in that war,” she said. •

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The Archive continues to collect material related to the life and legacy of Joe Moakley. The Moakley Oral History Project collected twenty-one interviews from Congressman Moakley’s family, friends, staff and colleagues in 2003 and hopes to double that number in 2004. The Archive also received documents and photographs from the Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America and documentary audiovisual material donated by Enemies of War filmmaker Esther Cassidy.

And the Archive has joined a collaboration of Boston-area archives working to document the desegregation controversy in Boston. These efforts enable the Moakley Archive and Institute to provide students, teachers, historians and the public with a comprehensive record of Joe Moakley’s life and original documentary material on the central issues and concerns that shaped his career.

The Moakley Archive and Institute continues to reach out and educate the public about Joe Moakley through the traveling exhibit John Joseph Moakley: In Service to his Country. It will be joined by the traveling version of the El Congresista Moakley exhibit during 2004. The Institute is planning future panel discussions and lectures on local, state and national issues. Visit the Archive & Institute web site at www.joemoakley.org for up-to-date information on Institute activities, exhibit locations and events, on-line resources and reference lists.

Suffolk University wishes to thank the staff, volunteers and Moakley family and friends who made 2003 a great year for the Moakley Archive & Institute.

Sincerely,

Beth Anne Bower
Archivist