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September 13, 1991

Telegram to Javier Perez de Cuellar
Secretary General of the United Nations

Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

The war in El Salvador has raged for over a decade and has claimed over 70,000 lives. It is our sincere hope that this is the year that the violence and civil unrest will finally end and the people of that country will have the opportunity to live in peace. It is in that spirit we want to express our deep appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations in attempting to mediate a lasting peace in El Salvador, rather than simply a period of rest after which violence appears again.

Your personal representative, Alvaro de Soto, has skillfully established a framework for sustained talks between the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN and has facilitated many advances -- including the creation of ONUSAL, to monitor human rights. However, notwithstanding Mr. de Soto's superb efforts, the talks now appear to be at an impasse.

We are particularly encouraged by the upcoming meeting in New York City in which you will personally attempt to help the warring parties move beyond their current substantive difficulties towards peace. We want to convey to you our strong support for your direct efforts and for all the efforts of the United Nations in this regard.

Those of us in the United States Congress believe that the only way the war in El Salvador can be ended is through negotiations. And we hope, under your expert guidance, both the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN will redouble their efforts in a spirit of compromise and urgency.

We offer our support for these next steps in the negotiations and for the strengthened and central role of the United Nations.

Respectfully,

Congressman Joe Moakley
Congressman David Bonior
Congressman Lee Hamilton
Congressman John Murtha
Congressman Richard Gephardt
Congressman Gerry Studds
Congressman Stephen Solarz
Congressman Robert Torricelli