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The Speaker's Rooms
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 5, 1989

Dear Joe:


On November 20, the House adopted H. Con. Res. 236 condemning the recent violence in El Salvador and expressing its revulsion at the murder of six Jesuit priests and two women. In light of the critical importance the resolution places on a satisfactory prosecution of this case, and in an effort to ensure that any progress is carefully monitored, I am appointing a special committee composed of committee chairmen and members who closely follow Central American issues. It will be part of and report to the leadership's Central American Task Force, which has been chaired since 1985 by Chief Deputy Whip David Bonior. I invite you to chair this special committee.

The committee should employ the resources of the relevant House committees and of its members to gather all available information about the murders, those responsible and the process undertaken to apprehend and bring them to justice. Since the murders were preceded by other unsolved political killings and deteriorating human rights conditions, and by the failure of the Salvadoran judicial system to offer either remedy or redress, the committee should examine the way in which these factors contributed or are relevant to the murders. I would expect the chairman to keep me informed of all developments in the case and that the committee would make periodic reports to me as well as to the Task Force.

It is my sincere hope that the murderers of these innocent victims will be tried promptly and punished for their crime and that the committee's efforts will contribute toward this end.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Foley
The Speaker

Hon. John Joseph Moakley
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