



Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America Collection (MS103), 1982-2001: A Finding Aid

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Moakley Archive and Institute, Suffolk University, Boston MA

Location: Moakley Law Library, Suffolk University

Call No.: MS103

Creator: Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America

Title: Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America Collection (MS103), 1982-1989, 2001

Date(s): bulk dates: n.d., 1982-2001; inclusive dates: 1982-1989, 2001

Quantity: 2 boxes, 1.2 cubic ft.

Preferred Citation: Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America Collection (MS103), 1982-1989, 2001, Moakley Archive and Institute, Suffolk University, Boston, MA.

Abstract: The Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America (JPCOCA), a grassroots organization from Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts lobbied Congressman Joe Moakley in the 1980s to help Salvadoran refugees gain legal status in the United States. The collection, which spans from 1982-2001, includes correspondence, news clippings and office files that document the committee's involvement in raising awareness of the Salvadoran refugee issue, their interactions with Congressman Moakley and how they achieved their goal of helping Salvadoran refugees in America.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: None

Use Restrictions: None

Gift of: Fran Price, Carol Pryor and Ginny Zanger, 5/9/2003

Processed by: Nicole Feeney, March 2009

Related Collections: The Archive and Institute has the following related collections available for research:

- Congressman John Joseph Moakley Papers (MS 100), 1927-2001
- Moakley Oral History Project

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America (JPCOCA) formed in 1981 when members of the Jamaica Plain (JP) neighborhood of Boston decided to create a local social and political activist group. JPCOCA's mission was to raise awareness about the injustices taking place in Central America by informing residents of JP through presentations, speaking engagements and grassroots political activism.

Virginia Zanger and Carol Pryor, along with other members of the group were students during the Vietnam Era; heavily active in the political and social protest movement. Based on those experiences, they decided that JPCOCA would focus on doing

what they could for each cause without becoming too heavily invested or over committing their time and resources. The first cause JPCOCA addressed was the injustices taking place in El Salvador during its civil war (1980-1992). Members of the committee disagreed with the United States' policy towards El Salvador including U.S. support of the Salvadoran government, aid for the Salvadoran military aid and the treatment of Salvadoran refugees. Some of their initial outreach activities were signature drives and speaking events.

In December of 1982, JPCOCA contacted Massachusetts Congressman John Joseph "Joe" Moakley's office to set up a meeting to discuss the Salvadoran refugee issue. They prepared for their first encounter with Joe Moakley by meeting with a lobbyist. At the lobbyist's suggestion they made sure to pay Moakley a compliment, take a picture with him for the local press and to ask him for something that was specific to his district. It was at this first meeting, in January 1983, that members of JPCOCA told Moakley of their concerns for their Salvadoran neighbors who, if caught living in Boston illegally, would be sent back to El Salvador in the midst of a civil war and risked being killed for their time abroad.

Although the atrocities of the Salvadoran civil war were covered in the national media, it wasn't until after meeting with JPCOCA that Joe Moakley realized the direct impact the Salvadoran civil war had on his Salvadoran constituents and their families. Another result from this meeting with JPCOCA, was that Congressman Moakley began working on legislation to help Salvadorans gain refugee status in the United States.

Starting in 1983, Moakley filed Extended Voluntary Departure (EVD) legislation that would allow Salvadoran refugees a temporary stay of deportation and work authorization. It wasn't until 1990 that Moakley's legislation passed with a new name Temporary Protected Status (TPS). This legislation, also known as the Moakley-DeConcini Bill, allowed certain immigrants fleeing civil wars, natural disasters and other conditions temporary legal residency and work authorization for a set period of time.

The Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America remained active until the late 1980s with much of their energy and resources focused on El Salvador, Salvadoran refugees and the Salvadoran civil war. They disbanded in the early 1990s, presumably because they achieved many of their goals. They regrouped briefly after the death of Congressman Moakley in May 2001 to host an event honoring the late congressman and his achievements.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection, donated by JPCOCA members Fran Price, Carol Pryor and Ginny Zanger, tells the story of the local efforts of the Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America and the international change it set in motion.

The bulk of the collection dates from the early 1980s until 1989. Many of the folders consist of correspondence between committee members and Joe Moakley or Moakley's aide, Jim McGovern and news clippings about El Salvador from local and national newspapers. The collection also includes event flyers, mission statements, a protest banner, photographs and form letters that describe how the committee functioned and the activities it sponsored. Folders from 2001 document the group's efforts to



organize an event to honor the late congressman and his legacy. The files are arranged chronologically, undated materials are filed at the beginning of the collection.

Browse [digitized materials](#) from this collection.

SUBJECT TERMS

Topic Terms

El Salvador. Politics and government. 1979-1992
Extended Voluntary Departure
Human Rights. El Salvador
Immigration policy and research
Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America
Refugees. Legal status, laws, etc. El Salvador
Social action
United States. Relations. El Salvador

Personal and Corporate Names

Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America
McGovern, James P., 1959-
Moakley, John Joseph, 1927-2001
Price, Fran
Pryor, Carol
Zanger, Ginny

Geographic Terms

El Salvador

RELATED COLLECTIONS AND RESOURCES

For more information in the Suffolk University Archives about the Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America and/or the Salvadoran civil war please consult the following manuscript collections, oral history interviews and resources:

COLLECTIONS

- [MS100 Congressman John Joseph Moakley Papers](#)
- [MS104 Enemies of War Collection](#)
- [John Joseph Moakley Oral History Project:](#)

Selected oral histories with links to transcript pdfs

- [OH-001 Congressman Joe Moakley, April 2001](#)
- [OH-013 Congressman James P. McGovern, August 2003](#)
- [OH-029 Congressman David Dreier, September 2004](#)
- [OH-005 Virginia Zanger, April 2003](#)
- [OH-006 Edmund Crotty, April 2003](#)

- [OH-007 Fran Price, May 2003](#)
- [OH-008 Carol Pryor, May 2003](#)
- [OH-002 Steve LaRose](#)
- [OH-021 Leonel Gomez, November 2003](#)
- OH-038 Benjamin Cuellar, November 2004

RESOURCES: [El Salvador Research Guide](#)

CONTAINER LIST

- B1/F1: "Briefing on U.S. Policy toward Central America for the Jamaica Plain Delegation of Congressman Joseph Moakley", n.d.
- B1/F2: Form letter against U.S. policy in Central America, n.d.
- B1/F3: Form letter against U.S. policy in Central America and in support of the Moakley-DeConcini Bill, n.d.
- B1/F4: Form letter to Secretary of State George Shultz, n.d.
- B1/F5: GAO Report packet from Jim McGovern to Carol Pryor, n.d.
- B1/F6: Jamaica Plain citizen's form letter to Congress, in English and Spanish, n.d.
- B2/F7: Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America banner, n.d. **Note: Digitized Image Available: [ms-0092](#)**
- B1/F8: Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America event flyer - "Washington Protest", 4/19-4/22/n.d.
- B1/F9: Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America event flyer - "The Ari War in El Salvador", 9/18/n.d.
- B1/F10: Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America event flyer - "Back to the Future: El Salvador-Vietnam", 11/11/n.d.
- B1/F11: Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America mission statements, n.d.
- B1/F12: News clipping- "Moakley's humane bill", n.d.
- B1/F13: Oxfam America Justice For All pledge sheet, n.d.
- B1/F14: Press release- Church World Service "Moakley-DeConcini Bill", n.d.
- B1/F15: Strategies for Moakley-DeConcini Bill, n.d.
- B1/F16: News clippings, 1982
- B1/F17: Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America event flyer - "The Church and the War in El Salvador", 11/16/1982
- B1/F18: Correspondence- Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America to John Joseph Moakley, 12/13/1982
- B1/F19: News clippings, 1983
- B1/F20: News clipping- Jamaica Plain Citizen "Residents Lobby Moakley About Central American Issues", 2/3/1983
- B1/F21: Correspondence- Carol Pryor and Virginia Zanger to John Joseph Moakley, 2/4/1983



- B1/F22: Correspondence- Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America "Dear Friend", 2/28/1983
- B1/F23: Correspondence- Carol Pryor to Jim McGovern, 3/1/1983
- B1/F24: Correspondence- John Joseph Moakley "Dear Colleague", 3/2/1983
- B1/F25: Correspondence- Michigan Interchurch Committee on Central American Human Rights (MICAH), 3/9/1983
- B1/F26: Memo- National Immigration Project Extended Voluntary Departure/Immigration, 3/14/1983
- B1/F27: Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America event flyer "Invisible Neighbors", 3/22/1983
- B1/F28: Correspondence- John Joseph Moakley to Carol and Molly Pryor, 3/31/1983
- B1/F29: Correspondence- John Joseph Moakley to Attorney General William French Smith, 4/28/1983
- B1/F30: Correspondence- John Joseph Moakley to Secretary of State George Shultz, 4/28/1983
- B1/F31: Extended Voluntary Departure press release, correspondence and description, 4/28/1983
- B1/F32: Extended Voluntary Departure press release, correspondence and description, 4/28/1983
- B1/F33: Correspondence- John Joseph Moakley to Carol Pryor, 4/29/1983
- B1/F34: Correspondence- Carol Pryor and Virginia Zanger to John Joseph Moakley, 5/6/1983
- B1/F35: Correspondence- John Joseph Moakley to Carol and Molly Pryor, 5/24/1983
- B1/F36: Correspondence- John Joseph Moakley to Fran Price, 5/24/1983
- B1/F37: Correspondence- John Joseph Moakley and Les AuCoin "Dear Colleague", 6/2/1983
- B1/F38: Correspondence- John Joseph Moakley "Dear Colleague", 6/3/1983
- B1/F39: Correspondence- John Joseph Moakley to Carol Pryor, 7/11/1983
- B1/F40: Correspondence- Attorney General Smith to John Joseph Moakley, 7/19/1983
- B1/F41: Extended Voluntary Departure statement from Congress, 7/20/1983
- B1/F42: "Refugee Problems in Central America", staff report for the Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugee policy, 9/1983
- B1/F43: Legislation - H.R. 4447, 11/17/1983 **Note: Digitized Image Available: [ms-0093](#)**
- B1/F44: Legislation- S. 2131, 11/17/1983
- B1/F45: News clippings, 1984
- B1/F46: Correspondence- Senator Edward Kennedy to Carol Pryor, 1/24/1984
- B1/F47: Correspondence- John Joseph Moakley to Carol Pryor, 3/29/1984
- B1/F48: Correspondence- John Joseph Moakley "Dear Colleague", including list of co-sponsors and news clippings, 4/3/1984



- B1/F49: News clippings, 1985
- B1/F50: Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America event flyer - "Sunday brunch benefit for Centro Presente", includes news clipping, 3/31/1985
- B1/F51: Citizens for Participation in Political Action and BANCA strategy sheet, 8-9/1985
- B1/F52: News clipping- Boston Globe Magazine "Invisible Neighbors", by Fran Price and Mark Zanger, 10/6/1985
- B1/F53: News clippings, 1987
- B1/F54: H.R.618, 1/20/1987
- B1/F55: Correspondence- Elliott Abrams to John Joseph Moakley, 3/2/1987
- B1/F56: Correspondence- Carol Pryor to Senator Edward Kennedy, 3/23/1987
- B1/F57: Correspondence- Citizens for Participation in Political Action "Dear Friend", 1/25/1988
- B1/F58: Memo 8- Reports and news about Moakley-DeConcini bill, 5/19/1988
- B1/F59: News clippings, 1989
- B1/F60: News clippings, 5/2001
- B1/F61: Speech by Carol Pryor, c. 6/2001
- B1/F62: News clippings, 6/2001
- B1/F63: Correspondence- Miren Uriarte to Anne Wheelock, 6/5/2001
- B1/F64: Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America event flyer 'honoring John Joseph Moakley', 6/8/2001
- B2/F65: Photograph- Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America event honoring John Joseph Moakley in Jamaica Plain, 6/8/2001 **Note: Digitized Image Available: [ms-0090](#)**
- B2/F66: Photograph- Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America event honoring John Joseph Moakley in Jamaica Plain, 6/8/2001 **Note: Digitized Image Available: [ms-0091](#)**
- B1/F67: Correspondence- Carol Pryor to Jim McGovern, 6/14/2001
- B1/F68: Correspondence- Jim McGovern to Carol Pryor, 6/21/2001 **Note: Digitized Image Available: [ms-0089](#)**