

March 3, 1983

Hon. Paul Tsongas  
United States Senate  
Washington DC

Dear Senator Tsongas,

As one of your admirers I am writing to say that I am deeply troubled by what seems to be the resurgence of a movement in the Senate and House which was disastrous for us and our allies in the past, and will be so again if it continues.

I refer to El Salvador and the following scenario:

- (1) The Congress pressures our allies to "share power", "negotiate", compromise, etc. without any similar pressure being exerted on the insurgents by anyone on our or their side.
- (2) Next, Congress cuts back aid to our allies, or threatens to do so, diminishing both their capacity to fight and, at the same time, any reason for the insurgents to seek anything less than total victory.
- (3) Meanwhile, both we and our adversaries join in propagating the lie that, in an imperfect world, our allies have the monopoly on imperfection while theirs are noble agrarian reformers, etc. In this manner we are led to believe that losing is no loss but rather our moral duty, etc.


Please note that while all this is going on on our side, the sponsors of the insurgents do not urge them to "share power" or "negotiate" or compromise. On the contrary, they urge them to win. Nor do such sponsors threaten to cut off military supplies. Instead they increase support.

Senator, surely simple common sense shows the folly, not to mention the unfairness, of this policy which seems, once again, to be emerging in the Congress. On the subject of fairness, surely the most dangerous thing a small country can do is to ally itself with the United States while, to our shame, those who ally themselves with the communist bloc can expect consistent support, as long as it takes, to assure not "power sharing" but the victory of their cause.

I spent the central years of my professional life in Southeast Asia and believe I am deeply experienced in the realities of insurgencies. During those years I watched the U.S. Congress from Asia, not Washington, and saw the effects on the ground of the scenario described above. It accomplished the final destruction both of our policies and the independence of three small nations. With a little bit of luck, it will also lose central America.

If any of your staff would like to pursue this issue with me, I would be entirely at their disposal at any time. In any case I would urge you to give this your most profound reflection while there is still time.

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Respectfully,  
  
Oden Williams