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Indianapolis, Indiana  
October 2, 1990

Copy for  
your  
information

The Honorable Richard Lugar  
Sr. Senator from Indiana  
Senate Office Building  
411 Russell Street  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar,

I found your September 25 letter to be deeply disturbing. Is it a form letter you send to those letter-writing campaigners who want aid to El Salvador cut out? I found Senator Coats' letter (copy enclosed) to be much more intelligent. If you are, as you say, deeply concerned about human rights in El Salvador, how could you do anything that would promote victory for the FMLN? Does anybody think that a Communist dictatorship would protect the human rights of Salvadorians? How can you be a party to forcing the elected Salvadorian government to "bargain in good faith" with Communist rebels who kill people? Do you believe that the FMLN represent the people? The people of El Salvador would be for a Communist government somewhat in the same ratio as the Poles were, I should imagine.

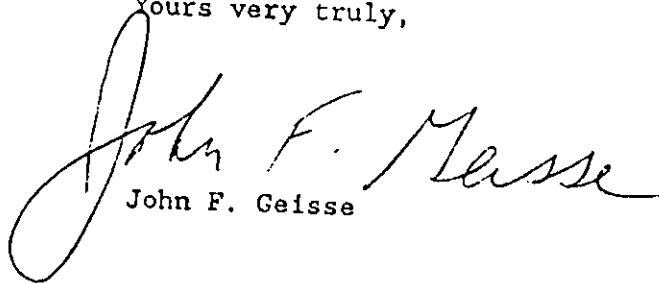
When anyone feels sanctimonious about the affairs of El Salvador, they might try imagining themselves in a position like that of El Salvador's leaders. How would they combat an armed insurgency in our Country if they were our President? Consider that this insurgency would have more arms than the government, and that the people who fight for the insurgency do not form battle lines, but engage in terrorizing and kill anti-Communist leaders. They are not visible, but they stand a good chance of winning. Our person, as President, would know that the armed rebels do not have the support of the people. Now, how would our person proceed to put down the rebellion?

I feel sorry that the pressure you and our Congressmen are feeling in this matter emanates partly from well-meaning Catholic sources, reacting with horror to the heinous murder of the Jesuits. There exists an enormous amount of disinformation about the death squads in our Country. President Christiani doesn't do much to correct the misinformation. I heard him interviewed over NPR recently. NPR's reporter asked, words to this effect: "How can you be asking Congress for more aid for Salvador when your government has not prosecuted the death squad murderers of 70,000 (sic!) Salvadorians?" President Christiani let the number stand without correcting his interrogator! The best information I have seen published by reputable sources is 45,000 Salvadorians have lost their lives in this miserable war perpetrated by Marxists. That number includes the dead on both sides, dead from open warfare and executions by goon squads from both sides.

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The disinformation abroad in Catholic quarters is incredible. I even heard a Bishop insist that the Salvadorian government deliberately bombs its citizens! He doesn't explain why they would want to do so. The impression being pushed is that the Salvadorian government is a dictatorial regime of terror and repression (see enclosed letter to Editor) not unlike the Stalinist regimes. The fact that the Salvadorian government was elected by the people, and that if pitted against the FMLN would win an election today hands down, seems to escape these people.

Yours very truly,

  
John F. Geisse

jlp

P.S. What an enormous difference there is between this letter of yours and your July 31, 1987 letter to me outlining your reasons for supporting aid to the Contras!