Box 15 - JGR/Death Squads Investigation – SSCI (Senate Select Committee on Intelligence) - Roberts, John G.: Files SERIES I: Subject File
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Dear Mr. Chase:

I am responding to your May 25 letter regarding the review of terrorist activity in El Salvador being conducted by the Select Committee on Intelligence.

Officers of the Department met recently with Mr. Eric Newsom and other members of the SSCI staff team to discuss the assistance that the Department will be able to provide. I have outlined below the arrangements we have made to assist the team's effort. In view of the unique character of your inquiry, we are prepared to provide you with document access that goes well beyond that usually provided. This unique access should not be taken as a precedent for future document requests.

We have initiated a comprehensive search of the Department's centralized files through the Foreign Affairs Information Management (FAIM) system, to include messages captioned for control by the Department's Executive Secretariat, from which listings of documents will be developed. Office space will be provided within the Office of Central American Affairs, Bureau of Inter-American Affairs. The team will also have access to Department of State materials held by Department offices bearing on the subject of the review.

The FAIM listings, themselves classified documents, will be provided to the team so that it may select the documents it wishes to view. In the case of material captioned for control by the Department's Executive Secretariat, and because the FAIM search will likely identify material with little or no bearing upon the subject of the review, the Department will first review the documents to ensure their relevance and suitability to the team's purpose. The team will be informed in the event we conclude that any document should not be made available. The team will be able to review all other documents, but we will ask to review any notes made of classified documents. The team will not be authorized to remove copies or notes of material without the Department's prior concurrence. The Department is not in a position to provide information originating from, or under the control of, other U.S. government agencies, but will identify other agencies having materials in our files.

A. Harold Eisner, Deputy Director of the Office of Central American Affairs (ARA/CEN), has been designated as the Department's point of contact in this matter. Should you wish to reach him by telephone, his number is 632-4975.

Mr. Gary Chase,
Chief Counsel,
Select Committee on Intelligence,
United States Senate.
We will be sending you separately preliminary information responsive to the work program that you submitted.

Sincerely,

W. Tapley Bennett, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
May 25, 1984

The Honorable W. Tapley Bennett, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ambassador Bennett:

Thank you for your assurance on behalf of the Secretary of the full cooperation of the State Department in connection with the review by the Select Committee on Intelligence of information relating to death squad or leftist terrorist activities in El Salvador. The Committee is appreciative of the Department's readiness to assist in our task.

A team of SSCI staff, led by Eric Newsom and comprised of Stephen Ward, Charles Andreea, Robin Cleveland and Edward Levine will review information in the State Department. They have made an initial contact with Mr. Richard Holwill in the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs, and matters with ARA appear to be proceeding satisfactorily. However, it will also be necessary for the team to examine documents in several Department bureaus and offices, and to interview a number of Department officials with current or past responsibilities involving El Salvador. Accordingly, it would be most helpful to our efforts if a central point of contact and coordination in the State Department could be named.

In order to assist the Department in responding to our needs, the attached preliminary work program might be helpful. Naturally, as the team progresses in its review, additional repositories of relevant material in the Department may be identified, as well as other employees who might possess information which should be reviewed.
To expedite our work, we would like to request certain information which could be provided to the Committee in written form. This information is described in point 4 of the attached preliminary work program.

We are contacting AID separately.

Again, thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Gary Chase
Chief Counsel

Enclosure
SSCI Death Squads Investigation

STATE/AID

Work Program

1. **Scope:** To examine pertinent files and interview appropriate individuals in State and AID relevant to a review of intelligence relating to direct or indirect involvement in or knowledge of right wing death squad and/or left wing terrorist activities by Salvadoran or United States officials between January 1, 1978 and the present.

2. **SSCI Team:** Eric Newsom, Stephen Ward, Charles Andreae, Robin Cleveland, Edward Levine. All have TOP SECRET/ CODEWORD clearances.

3. **Files to Examine:** All relevant files in at least the following offices, as well as any other component of State or AID which the review may indicate possesses relevant materials.

   A. **Bureau of Inter-American Affairs (ARA)**
      - Office of Assistant Secretary
      - Office of Central American Affairs

   B. **Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR)**
      - Office of the Director
      - Office of Analysis for Inter-American Republics
      - Office of Intelligence Support
C. Bureau of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs (HA)
   - Office of the Assistant Secretary
   - Office of Human Rights, ARA Regional Officer
   - Office of Inter-American Affairs

D. Office of the Inspector General (IG)

E. Policy Planning Staff (S/P) member or members responsible for Central American policy issues

F. Legal Adviser (L)
   - Assistant Legal Adviser for Inter-American Affairs
   - Assistant Legal Adviser for Human Rights and Refugees
   - Assistant Legal Adviser for Law, Enforcement and Intelligence

G. Office of the Secretary of State (S)
   - Special Ambassador at Large

H. Office for Combatting Terrorism (M/CT)

I. Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs (PM)
   - Office of Regional Security Affairs
   - Office of Security Assistance and Sales

J. Agency for International Development (AID)
   - Office of the Inspector General, Office of Investigations and Inspections
   - Office of the General Counsel, Assistant General Counsel for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, Office of Central American and Panamanian Affairs

4. Preliminary Information Required

A. List of all relevant files in all offices identified in this program as well as any others which may contain information bearing on this review.

B. List of all occupants of the following positions since January 1, 1978, the period of their tenure, and present whereabouts.

- **ARA**
  - Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs
  - ARA Bureau Human Rights Officer - RPP
  - Chief, ARA/CEN - EX
  - Salvador Desk Officer - CEN

- **HA**
  - Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs
  - Regional Human Rights Officer for ARA
  - Chief, Office of Inter-American Affairs

- **Policy Planning (S/P)**
  - Staff Members responsible for Central America policy issues

- **Special Ambassadors at Large (S/AL)**
  - Aides and Special Assistants
• Embassy
  - Ambassadors
  - Deputy Chiefs of Mission
  - Chiefs of the Political Section
  - Political officers with reporting responsibilities on death squads and/or left wing terrorist activities
  - Embassy Human Rights Officers
  - Special TDYs or detailees doing collection, analysis or reporting relating to death squad or left wing terrorist activities
  - Any officials with internal security assistance or advisory functions or reporting responsibilities.

C. Written Guidance or Instructions relating to collection, reporting or analysis of death squad or left wing terrorist activities.

5. Preliminary Interviews to be Conducted:

ARA
  - Tom Enders
  - Stephen Bosworth (Enders' Deputy Assistant, then Chairman of Policy Planning and now U.S. Ambassador to Philippines)
  - Tony Motley
  - Officer in charge of Human Rights, Congressional and Public Affairs
  - Director, Central American Affairs, Shaw Smith (current), Craig Johnstone (now Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central America), John Blacken

Bureau of Human Rights
  - ARA Regional Officer
    Robert Snyder (current)
    Dale Shaffer (former)
Policy Planning
- Jon Glassman

INR
- Office of Analysis for Inter-American Republics
  William Knepper (formerly Office Director; now Bureau Assistant Director for Coordination, INR)
  Pete Romero, El Salvador Desk Officer (former)
  Charles Herrington, El Salvador Desk Officer (present)

Special Ambassadors at Large
  Harry Shlaudeman
  Richard Stone
April 11, 1984

The Honorable George P. Shultz
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear George:

On Tuesday, March 26, 1984, Senator Kennedy introduced Amendment #2896 to the Urgent Supplemental for the Fiscal Year 1984 PL-480 Program [H.J.Res. 492]. At that time, Senator Kennedy said his amendment was based on his concern that there have been "persistent allegations that high Salvadoran officials are deeply involved in the death squads, possibly with the complicity or acquiescence of the CIA." Kennedy's amendment stated the following:

"The Senate and House Select Committees on Intelligence, in coordination with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee, shall conduct a full investigation of death squads in El Salvador and shall report to the Senate and the House of Representatives by May 31, 1984, on the extent of death squad activity, responsibility for organizing, directing and carrying out death squad killings, and progress in prosecuting those responsible for such killings."

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence routinely does reports on its own recognition or if requested by other Committees or Members of the Senate. So on April 3, 1984, we agreed in a colloquy on the Floor of the Senate to hold a series of hearings on the death squads in response to Senator Kennedy's concern. We further agreed to investigate the matter of these allegations and to make the record of that investigation known to the extent that it can be published. On the basis of our commitments to Senator Kennedy, the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director of the Committee have established a Death Squad Working Group which is being coordinated by Larry Kettlewell and Steve Ward.