

File: House Armed Services

PAK

CONFIDENTIAL

SPEED LETTER		REPLY REQUESTED		DATE 31 March 1982
		<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	LETTER NO. EA 82-0789
TO : [Redacted]	FROM [Redacted]			
ATTN: PCS/PGLO 2E14 Hqs	Legislative Liaison 7B24 Hqs			

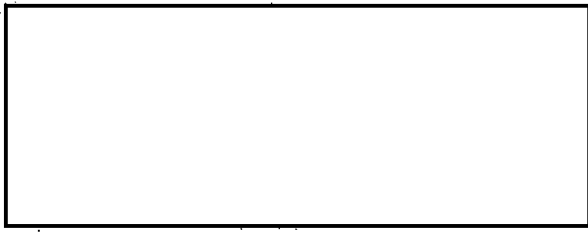
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I received a telephone call from Bill Hogan, Counsel, HASC, asking whether CIA has any comment to make on a letter sent to the Committee Chairman Melvin Price (D., IL) by Congressman Henry Gonzalez (D., TX). (See attached excerpt from the Congressional Record, 24 March, which gives the full text of the letter.)

If your answer is to refer him to DoD, can we be specific about where in DoD?

ALL PORTIONS OF THIS
MEMORANDUM ARE CONFIDENTIAL

Attachment



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REPLY	SIGNATURE
	DATE

*DDI has no comment. Refer Hogan to DOD; Maj Wright-
697-9831/G 99503174*

[Signature]
30 Apr 82

SIGNATURE

... millions of dollars implies, or not, that there is some-
 improper to hide.
 Many citizens have expressed their
 concern over the Olympic coin pro-
 gram proposed in H.R. 3958 and S.
 1239. All they would like is a realistic
 program that every American could
 afford. Perhaps we could all learn
 from the good commonsense and re-
 straint they have shown through
 these letters. Frequently, the simplest
 most straight forward plans yield the
 best results. Let us keep this in mind
 when we consider the proposals to
 commemorate the Olympics and raise
 money for our athletes. ◊

WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING IN EL SALVADOR?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under
 a previous order of the House, the gen-
 tleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) is
 recognized for 15 minutes.

◊ Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, we
 are told that our troops in El Salvador
 are only serving as advisers, as train-
 ing specialists. Yet, I have not one
 time seen any news report that quotes
 an American soldier talking about his
 job. The one and only picture we have
 seen of American soldiers at work in
 El Salvador was provocative enough to
 cause the American Ambassador to
 send the commanding officer of Army
 personnel packing. With that one brief
 moment of light, the curtain descen-
 ded. What are our troops really doing in
 El Salvador, and why are not they al-
 lowed to talk to the press—or if they
 are allowed to talk, why are not their
 words reported? Salvadoran troops are
 interviewed; they are photographed;
 their stories are reported. Peasants are
 interviewed, their desperation report-
 ed, their misery portrayed—but you
 never hear a word reported from our
 own Embassy personnel. Why not?

This past weekend, two graduate
 students in San Antonio approached
 me with startling words about what
 our troops may really be doing in El
 Salvador. These students were earnest,
 their convictions sincere, and their
 concern obvious. What they told me
 suggests that our troops in El Salvador
 are more than advisers, and they are
 engaged in more than the role of in-
 structors.

These students told me that they
 had run into a soldier who was in trans-
 it. This soldier stated that he was in
 the Special Forces, and that the 10th
 Special Forces Group is assigned to El
 Salvador. According to him, this unit
 consists of 220 men. He said that mem-
 bers of the unit had participated in
 military missions and had been en-
 gaged in combat.

This is in complete contrast to the
 officially stated U.S. policy. That
 policy supposedly prohibits American
 soldiers even to carry rifles, let alone
 be engaged in any kind of combat op-
 eration—even as advisers.

Those who recall the incident of the
 unit that was photographed carrying

rifles will also remember that the Am-
 bassador made a great show out of
 throwing the unit commander out of
 El Salvador. A few days later, there
 were newspaper stories that said the
 administration was reconsidering its
 order against permitting soldiers to
 carry anything other than sidearms.
 Then there was nothing. No word
 about revised orders, no word about
 the ejected colonel, nothing. I said at
 the time that the order against carry-
 ing arms was unreasonable, and that it
 was also ridiculous that our troops in
 El Salvador are not getting hazardous
 duty pay—although our diplomats are.

The question then and now is, what
 are our soldiers doing?

If we do have soldiers engaged in
 combat patrols, or in any form of
 combat—even as advisers—then our
 role in El Salvador is very different
 from what the official line says it is.
 There is a world of difference between
 a Green Beret who is training soldiers
 in the Salvadorean equivalent of Fort
 Benning, and one who is out on a
 combat mission. There is a world of
 difference between the level of com-
 mitment that is implied. There is a
 world of difference between a soldier
 committed to train others, and one
 who is in any kind of combat situation.
 Among other things, there is the fact
 that the War Powers Act is involved in
 any such difference.

At the time of the famous picture in-
 cident, we were told that our soldiers
 should not have been armed. If they
 should not have been armed, one won-
 ders, where did the arms come from?
 The answer to that is probably that
 these were, in fact, the weapons of the
 soldiers in question, and they were
 being carried pursuant to an order of
 some kind. Now it happens that those
 troops were not in combat, or any-
 thing approaching combat—but clearly
 they felt that they might become
 engaged, that they might at the very
 least have to defend themselves.

The incident raised many questions,
 none of them ever answered.

With reporters swarming all over El
 Salvador, it is remarkable—astonish-
 ing, in fact, that the one brief glimpse
 is all the film that we have seen of
 American personnel. We never see
 them interviewed, never see stories
 that explain what their jobs are, how
 many there are, or where they work.
 We never see interviews with civilian
 personnel, either, or stories about
 their work or what they do. Could all
 this silence be telling us something?
 Could it be telling us that there is no
 information from the field, because
 that information would contradict
 what our public policy is? I have to
 wonder, especially in light of what I
 was told by those two students this
 past weekend.

The one fact that I can confirm is
 that there are, indeed, Green Berets in
 El Salvador. The Pentagon admits
 that there are, but denies that any
 particular unit is assigned there.

The silence is so overwhelming that
 I cannot help but feel the administra-
 tion may, in fact, be violating the War
 Powers Act. It is a question that no in-
 dividual Member of this House could
 ever answer. Therefore, I have asked
 the distinguished chairman of the
 Armed Services Committee to look
 into this matter. I have also asked the
 distinguished chairman of the Foreign
 Operations Appropriations Subcom-
 mittee to consider this matter. These
 are colleagues who can obtain infor-
 mation more readily and with a great-
 er degree of confidence that will be ac-
 curate than I could.

I offer for the RECORD a copy of my
 letter to Chairman PRICE:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
 Washington, D.C., March 22, 1982.
 HON. MELVIN PRICE,
 Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
 Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-
 ington, D.C.

DEAR MEL: I have received uncorroborated
 information of an intensely disturbing
 nature, and am writing to ask that you pro-
 vide whatever verification you can. I am
 making this request because I do not believe
 the Administration would be likely to pro-
 vide a complete and informative response to
 an individual Member, but would do so on
 the basis of an inquiry from your Commit-
 tee.

My understanding has been that the U.S.
 military personnel in El Salvador and other
 Central American countries are simply
 training specialists serving on a temporary
 duty (TDY) basis. However, information I
 received last weekend suggests that this is
 not the case; that U.S. Special Forces units
 are in El Salvador and perhaps elsewhere as
 well. According to my informant, the 10th
 Special Forces Group is in El Salvador; that
 this organization consists of 220 soldiers;
 and that members of the organization have
 been engaged in combat missions in one
 degree or another.

I know, of course, that Special Forces per-
 sonnel are especially trained in counterin-
 surgency operations, and as such are not
 only highly qualified combat soldiers, but
 experts in training techniques as well. How-
 ever, there is a vast difference between the
 mission of soldiers who simply provide train-
 ing, and soldiers who participate—even in an
 advisory capacity—in combat missions.

I would be greatly indebted to you if you
 could inquire whether there are, in fact,
 Special Forces personnel in El Salvador, or
 for that matter Honduras or Costa Rica. If
 there are such personnel, are they there as
 individuals, or as Special Forces units? Have
 any U.S. personnel been involved in any-
 thing other than training?

I am enormously concerned that the role
 of the United States forces in Central Amer-
 ica may be different in nature and scope
 than what has been reported. I know that
 your Committee would have great reason to
 be concerned if the nature of our role is
 more than simply one of providing neces-
 sary military training. Since such questions
 are of concern to your Committee, and since
 long experience has taught me that Admin-
 istrations are not entirely forthcoming
 about inquiring on such sensitive issues as
 this, I would be more grateful for your in-
 quiries on this, and for any information you
 can provide to me.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

HENRY B. GONZALEZ,
 Member of Congress.

1982

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H 1109

Speaker, I would not raise these questions but for the fact that this House has before been told that American policy is one thing, only to learn later that it was another. We have been led down the path before—beyond the point of return. I would not want that to happen again. Every poll I have seen suggests clearly that the vast majority of Americans do not support even our present involvement in El Salvador, let alone the kind of involvement I was told about. If the War Powers Act is indeed being violated, that would be a grave matter—grave on its face, graver still because the sin would be compounded by deception.

We need some answers. We ought to be asking questions. We ought to look at the answers with skeptical eyes—for we must learn from the mistakes of the past, if we want to avoid repeating them. What are our soldiers doing in El Salvador? ☉

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. COELHO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. COELHO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WILLIAM STANTON PICHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. PHILLIP BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.
 ☉ Mr. PHILLIP BURTON. Mr. Speaker, San Franciscans will sorely miss the late William Stanton Picher. When he died recently of a brain tumor at age 67, the bay area lost a special friend of conservation and the arts. But we can be comforted by the knowledge that he left a special legacy, a legacy of community service with particular relevance today. He did more than achieve notable progress through a number of individual projects. At a time when some would relegate environmental protection and artistic endeavors to the status of dispensable luxuries, we should appreciate the work of someone who demonstrated that they are instead integral parts of a democracy. William Stanton Picher has permanently enhanced the natural and cultural environment of countless people in our area.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the Record the following tribute to Mr. Picher, beautifully composed by his close friend, Clifford Conly:

A Missouri native, William Stanton Picher was a descendant of President Lincoln's great Secretary of War; a student of poetry, he received his master of art's degree from Harvard University. He served his country in World War II in the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps. After the war, his life revolved around his bookstore and art gallery, until he closed it in the early 1950s.

At that time, he moved to the San Francisco Bay Area and dedicated his life to public service. His interests were far ranging. An early study and unique collection of ancient Chinese porcelain led him to take

an active interest in the establishment of the Avery Brundage Oriental Art Collection at the DeYoung Museum. He extended his interest to the entire Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, where he served with distinction on the board. He was also a member of the Museum Society, and became its president from 1975-1977. He was an early member of the Board of Directors of the Oakland Museum, and a trustee of the American Federation of Arts. He also was an ardent supporter of musical activities in the Bay Area, and recently was appointed to the Board of Governors of the San Francisco Symphony.

William Picher was actively involved in choosing and contributing fine art objects to grace the Symphony's new home, the Loise M. Davies Symphony Hall. His taste and collections in contemporary art were well known and he was a firm believer in furnishing support to local artists.

But his greatest contribution lay in his awareness of the environment and the field of natural conservation. He understood the threat of uncontrolled development long before conservation became a household word. He was interested in birds from an early age, and became president of a local Bay Area Audubon chapter when it comprised a very small group of persons. From this position, he was able to found and raise support for the West Marin sanctuary known as Audubon Canyon Ranch.

For the following twenty years, and until the day of his death, his untiring work on behalf of fund raising, land acquisition and management, and organizational activities never ceased. In fact, his work almost singlehandedly started the conservation movement in West Marin that has resulted in the establishment of two great parks. His steadfast efforts led to the preservation of much land along Tomales Bay and Muir Beach, and, more recently, in Sonoma County. Audubon Canyon Ranch, which features natural preservation and educational programs at its three preserves, will remain his greatest monument.

Many people of the Bay Area, dedicated to the preservation of the quality of life on our planet, will miss him. ☉

UDAG: URBAN ENTERPRISE WITH A TRACK RECORD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WILLIAM J. COYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

☉ Mr. WILLIAM J. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, this week the administration announced its legislative plans for the much discussed but little tested urban enterprise zones.

In its eagerness to create still more tax breaks, in this instance for firms which locate in distressed areas, I would hope the administration does not compound the damage it has caused HUD's urban development action grants (UDAG), a job creating program with a proven track record.

Funds for UDAG, a program established by the Carter administration in 1977, have been reduced by a third in the administration's most recent budget request. The Carter fiscal 1981 budget provided \$675 million; the Reagan fiscal 1983 budget asks \$440 million. It is no secret that some at the Office of Management and Budget, including Director David Stockman,

would like to see the program eliminated altogether. The enterprise zone proposal is apparently designed to take up the slack that results from UDAG fund reductions or elimination.

I do not believe that reducing the Federal urban presence will necessarily mean more private investment and jobs, a philosophical tenet of the enterprise zone concept. Herbert Liebenson, president of the National Small Business Association, has described the situation in many urban areas. "Most small firms are hanging on by their fingernails just trying to survive," he says. He notes that "Money's what's needed, not tax deductions."

UDAG provides that money, and the private investment that results provides the jobs. At my request, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) has projected what we might expect if the UDAG program is funded at \$500 million per year—the amount authorized by Congress in fiscal 1982—through fiscal years 1982-84. CRS projects that we could expect to create or retain more than 200,000 private sector jobs, \$11 billion in new private investment, and \$98 million in new local property tax revenues. This extrapolation is based on data compiled in a recent HUD evaluation of the UDAG program.

While the administration's lack of enthusiasm for the UDAG program is clear, I would hope that the decision-makers consider exactly how much 200,000 jobs, \$11 billion in private investment, and \$98 million in new local taxes can mean in a depressed economy.

We should preserve and improve Federal programs such as UDAG, programs which do the job they were designed to do. An experiment with enterprise zones, if it is accompanied by further reductions in the UDAG program, would be a mistake. The UDAG program is a winner. We should keep it.

I would be happy to share with my colleagues the complete text of the CRS report on the projected performance of the UDAG program over the next 3 years. Please contact my office if you desire a copy of the report. ☉

AMERICA RESPONDS TO THE "DO-IT-YOURSELF" BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. REUSS) is recognized for 30 minutes.

☉ Mr. REUSS. Mr. Speaker, the word we hear, on both sides of the aisle, is that President Reagan's budget proposal is "dead in the water."

The President has told Congress to "put up or shut up."

We shall "put up."

Last week, as chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, I testified before the House and Senate Budget Committees and presented an alternative "Do-It-Yourself" congressional