

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

23 March 1984

CONGRESSMAN WANTS CIA FILE ON CENTRAL AMERICA
WASHINGTON

A Massachusetts Democrat, concerned at the increasing number of news stories and other allegations of American involvement in Central America, says he wants to see the CIA file on that part of the world.

Rep. James Shannon, D-Mass., Thursday filed a resolution of inquiry asking to see secret documents that reportedly link Salvadoran Col. Nicolas Carranza's to the CIA.

A Shannon spokeswoman said the resolution asked the CIA to relinquish the material in the next 14 legislative days. She said the congressman could renew the request on the House floor should the CIA fail to respond.

Shannon's resolution was prompted by reports that Carranza, the head of El Salvador's Treasury police, has been a paid informant for the CIA since the late 1970's, receiving more than \$90,000 a year in recent years.

"Revelations of the past few weeks that economic aid to El Salvador is siphoned off to dummy companies, that the government leaders promising reform and receiving aid are also heading the death squads and now this new evidence linking the CIA to Col. Carranza all point to a dark picture of American involvement," Shannon said in a statement.

Carranza last year took command of the Treasury police, which has been accused of responsibility for many of the human rights abuses in El Salvador.

Shannon, in a brief speech in the House, said he met Carranza last summer when he asked the Salvadoran official about death squads, rights abuses, and murderers who were never brought to trial.

"Right down the line Carranza stonewalled. He looked me straight in the eye and told me there were no abuses, no government killings, no trial delays. I didn't know then that Carranza had a hand in shaping the death squads and picking the targets. I didn't think then that he might be on the CIA payroll when involved in these activities," Shannon said.

"Now we have a responsibility to uncover the whole story and stop the suffering of the Salvadoran people fed by U.S. dollars, it's time for the CIA to come clean, time for the American people to see where their money is going and time to take a close look at our involvement in El Salvador."