

**NATIONAL  
CONGRESS  
OF  
AMERICAN  
INDIANS**

202 E STREET, N.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002 (202) 546-1168

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*Luiseno-Diegueno*

July 30, 1982

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The Honorable Paul N. McClosky, Jr.  
205 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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*Poarch Band of Creeks*

Dear Congressman McClosky:

The National Congress of American Indians is aware that the United States Congress is now considering foreign military aid and assistance bills which would substantially increase the military capabilities of the Central American states of El Salvador and Guatemala.

As a result of our communication with Indian leaders and Indian organizations in Central America, we have concluded that we must urge the United States to withhold any further military or economic aid to the above mentioned governments.

In accordance with our own inquiries in Central America, the NCAI unanimously adopted the enclosed resolution which we now draw to your attention.

The countries of Guatemala and El Salvador are now engaged in massive human rights violations and committing acts of genocide specifically directed at the main populations in Guatemala and the Nuhuat Pipile of El Salvador.

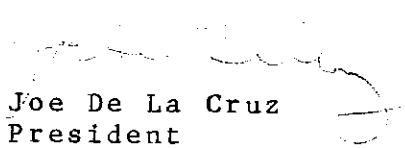
As we observe in our resolution, acts of genocide are being committed against these Indian populations by the government military, private militia, and various rebel forces. In Guatemala and El Salvador alone, Indian populations numbering in excess of 4 million are being specifically targeted by government and rebel forces using weapons and other armaments provided by the United States and other countries.

We in the NCAI believe that for the United States to continue military aid, and even increase the number of weapons in Guatemala and El Salvador on the grounds that these governments are improving their "human rights" records is to make a mockery of human rights. We further believe that if U.S. military aid is sent to Guatemala and El Salvador after you have been advised of genocidal practices of the various governments in Central America you will in fact place the U.S. in the position of knowingly contributing to acts of genocide and ethnocide against the indigenous people of Central America.

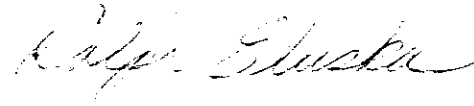
We strongly urge that you and your congressional colleagues recognize that the lives of thousands of Indian men, women and children are being placed in jeopardy even though they are not themselves actively engaged in the general conflicts in Guatemala and El Salvador.

We urge you to withhold all military aid and military related aid from the governments of Guatemala and El Salvador.

Respectfully,

  
Joe De La Cruz  
President

Respectfully,

  
Ralph Eluska  
Vice-President

JDLC:tvc

Enclosure

*some letter to*

~~cc:~~ Senators: Howard Baker, Jr.  
Charles Percy  
William Proxmire  
Mark Hatfield

Congressmen: Clement Zablocki  
Christopher Dodd  
Don Bonker  
Michael Barnes