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File: Salvador

North

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 14, 1985

Dear Walt:

Thank you for your letter of August 6. It was, indeed, a sad occasion that brought us together again.

Our Marines and their families have suffered painfully at the hands of ruthless terrorists in recent years. Letters such as that sent by John Weber and his family serve to inspire those of us who believe in the American way. It is this kind of patriotic spirit and unflinching devotion to the Corps and the United States of America that strengthens our people and our resolve to defend freedom and democracy.

We are proud of Gregg and his family for their beliefs. Please feel free to pass along a copy of this letter to the Weber family noting that their letter was also forwarded to the President.

Semper fi,



Robert C. McFarlane

Colonel W. E. Boomer  
United States Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer,  
Marine Security Guard Battalion  
MCDEC Quantico, VA 22134

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

September 4, 1985

ACTION**SIGNED**

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: OLIVER L. NORTH

SUBJECT: Letter of Response to COL W.E. Boomer, USMC

Attached at Tab I is a letter from you to COL Boomer, Commanding Officer of the Marine Security Guard Battalion, responding to his letter of August 6, 1985 (Tab II). In his letter, COL Boomer forwarded a copy of a letter from the Weber family whose son was one of those killed in the terrorist attack in San Salvador.

Ray Burghardt and Vince Cannistraro concur.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to COL Boomer at Tab I.

Approve M

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

## Attachments

Tab I - McFarlane letter to Boomer

Tab II - Boomer letter to McFarlane of August 6, 1985



Ollie - Reg  
Thy  
Bud  
6 August 1985

6665

Mr. Robert C. McFarlane  
Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McFarlane,

While the occasion was very sad, I am glad that I had the opportunity to see you and Mrs. McFarlane again. Your genuine concern for the Marines and their families deeply touched me. Marine Security Guard Battalion is recovering from the tragedy and doing all that we can to prevent such an incident in the future; however, it causes me many restless nights.

While I was still depressed about the murders, I received the attached letter from the Weber family. Corporal Weber was the honor graduate of Class 2-85, and had been in San Salvador only a few months when the attack occurred. The letter was an inspiration to me. It might be to you also.

Best wishes for continued success.

Respectfully,

*Walt Boomer*

W. E. BOOMER  
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps

I  
DEAR COLONEL BOOMER  
I WANT TO EXPRESS THE  
SINCERE THANKS OF MY FAMILY  
FOR YOUR KIND WORDS OF  
SYMPATHY. THE WORDS OF  
SORROW EXPRESSED BY MARINES,  
AND THEIR FAMILIES, HAVE SO  
MUCH MORE MEANING FOR US. YOU  
CAN SEE THEY ARE GRIEVING  
ALMOST AS MUCH AS WE ARE.  
ONLY FAMILY CAN EXPERIENCE  
THIS MUCH HURT. WE HOPE THAT  
WE WILL ALWAYS BE CONSIDERED  
A PART OF YOUR MARINE CORPS  
FAMILY.

WE WERE PROUD OF GREG WHEN  
HE ENLISTED IN THE MARINE  
CORPS. WHEN HE GRADUATED #1  
FROM MSG. SCHOOL OUR PRIDE  
IN HIM KNEW NO BOUNDS.

GREG KNEW WHAT HE WAS  
DOING AT ALL TIMES.

II HE WAS A FINE MAN AND  
A GOOD CHRISTIAN. HE  
BELIEVED WHAT HE WAS  
DOING WAS IMPORTANT.  
WE HAVE A LOT OF HURT  
BUT NO REGRETS.

ALL OF THE MEN + WOMEN  
OF THE U.S.M.C. AND ESPECIALLY  
M.S.G. MEMBERS WILL BE IN  
OUR PRAYERS ALWAYS.

GOD BLESS AND PROTECT  
THE U.S.M.C.!

John Weber  
&  
Family

File: 1. Rewards  
2. Salvador

North

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release

July 19, 1985

Today the United States Government announces a reward of up to \$100,000 for information leading to the effective prosecution and punishment of those responsible for the murders of six U. S. citizens on June 19, 1985, in San Salvador, El Salvador. Those with information in El Salvador should notify the investigating authorities of the Salvadoran government. Those with information in the United States should notify the Office of Security, Department of State. Those with information in any other country should notify the nearest U.S. Embassy. Information received will be handled on a confidential basis and the identities of informants will be protected. Officers or employees of any governmental organization who furnish information while in performance of official duties are not eligible for the reward.

# # # #

CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTERTERRORISM BILL

By a bipartisan vote of 15-1, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved December 5 a compromise version of the Administration's Central American Counterterrorism Act of 1985 sponsored by Senator Lugar and supported by Senator Pell. The Senate bill authorizes \$21 million for police assistance, compared to \$26 million in the Administration bill, provides the full \$1 million for the counterterrorism protection fund, but deletes the \$27 million sought in military counterterrorism assistance. (Legislative history will make clear that the denial of additional military assistance funds at this time does not prevent the use of available MAP funds for military counterterrorism assistance.) Following extensive Presidential human rights certifications, the funds are authorized for use in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica, but not in Panama or Belize.

In order for this committee action to become law before the Christmas recess, we now need to put the bill on a legislative fast track. This means attaching it to the Continuing Resolution which is now on the Senate floor. The following actions are necessary:

1. Senator Lugar offers the Foreign Relations Committee authorization bill, plus a corresponding appropriation, as a floor amendment.
2. Senators Kasten and Inouye accept this amendment which was adopted with such broad bipartisan support.
3. Congressman Fascell assures Congressman Obey that the Foreign Affairs Committee supports the House accepting this Senate amendment in Conference.
4. The house recedes to the Senate position.

In order for all these necessary steps to occur, it will be essential that the President make known to key members the importance of completing action on this measure. At this time, it is recommended that he call Senators Lugar, Kasten, and Inouye, as well as Congressman Fascell. Suggested talkings points are attached. A later call to Congressman Obey may become necessary.

PRESIDENTIAL CALL TO SENATOR LUGAR

KEY OBJECTIVES:

1. Lugar agreement to confer with Kasten on attaching Senate Foreign Relations Committee bill to the Senate version of the Continuing Resolution.
2. Lugar agreement to call Rep. Fascell and ask that Fascell obtain Committee approval for Fascell to tell Rep. Obey that the House Foreign Affairs Committee agrees to inclusion of bill in the full year Continuing Resolution.

Talking Points

-- I want to thank you personally for your efforts to forge a consensus on our Central American counterterrorism bill.

-- The 15-1 vote on what I know is a controversial issue for many of your Committee members is a real tribute to your skills as Chairman and efforts to revive and reinvigorate the Committee.

-- After several months of discussion, you have put some momentum behind our efforts to assist these four governments in Central America address the terrorist threat.

-- We need to move quickly now to keep the momentum. I would hope that you can confer with Senator Kasten and Representative Fascell to obtain their agreement to include your compromise bill in the full year Continuing Resolution.

-- If Senator Kasten agrees, we would like to see the bill included in the Senate version of the Continuing Resolution.

-- Representative Fascell, who has been awaiting action by your Committee, should be asked to confer with Representative Obey to ensure that the House will concur with inclusion of the bill in the Continuing Resolution.

- This is a very important priority for the Administration. We must move to try to prevent more murders like the June 19 killings of our Marines in El Salvador and the kidnapping of President Duarte's daughter.

-- I would appreciate your talking with Senator Kasten and Chairman Fascell to obtain inclusion of your compromise bill in the Continuing Resolution. I am calling both of these Members, as well as Senator Inouye, to convey to them the importance I attach to this legislation.

PRESIDENTIAL CALL TO SENATOR KASTEN

KEY OBJECTIVES:

1. Obtain Kasten agreement to include Lugar-compromise bill in Senate version of full year Continuing Resolution.
2. Obtain Kasten agreement to report out bill from House-Senate Conference as part of full year Continuing Resolution.

Talking Points

-- I am calling to ask your help with our Central American Counterterrorism bill.

-- Senator Lugar put together a compromise bill that was passed by the Foreign Relations Committee on Thursday with the support of Senator Pell. The Lugar-compromise was approved by a bipartisan vote of 15-1.

-- We need your help to keep the legislative momentum going. I would like your agreement to accept the Lugar compromise as part of the Continuing Resolution. Senator Lugar intends to offer the bipartisan product of his committee as a floor amendment to the Continuing Resolution.

-- We need to send a clear signal to the guerrillas that terrorism does not pay. We need to let them know that killing our Marines and kidnapping President Duarte's daughter has reinforced our resolve to promote democracy in the region.

-- Too much time has already passed since the events of last summer. We were slow in getting to Congress and Congress has been considering this issue since September. It is now almost Christmas.

-- The Lugar bill is an acceptable compromise. I hope you can support us and help us get this legislation approved as part of the Continuing Resolution.

PRESIDENTIAL CALL TO SENATOR INOUYE

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Inform Inouye of our support for the Lugar-Pell compromise.
2. Seek his agreement to include the Lugar-Pell compromise bill as part of the Continuing Resolution.

TALKING POINTS

-- We are confronting a serious problem in Central America and I need your immediate help.

-- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has approved by a bipartisan vote of 15-1 a compromise Central American counterterrorism bill put together by Senators Lugar and Pell.

-- I am prepared to accept this bipartisan bill which includes amendments proposed by both Democrats and Republicans. I would like to sign this bill into law as part of the Continuing Resolution.

-- If this bill can be included in the Senate version of the Continuing Resolution, I would hope that it can be reported out as part of the Conference Continuing Resolution. In order for this to occur, I need the concurrence of the Appropriations Committee.

-- I am asking that you and Senator Kasten agree to Senator Lugar offering the Foreign Relations Committee authorization bill plus a corresponding appropriation, as a floor amendment to the CR.

-- Proceeding on this basis we could have this compromise bill in place before the Christmas recess, if not, we risk losing the legislative initiative and suggesting to the terrorists in the region that our concerns are not genuine.

-- As our concerns are very real, I want to send a strong message to the terrorists. I would like your help on this important matter.

-- The Lugar-Pell compromise addresses extensively both the human rights and counterterrorism dimensions of the program in Central America. It requires extensive reports and Presidential certifications and puts various restrictions on the program.

-- I am prepared to accept this compromise bill. I need your help to get it through the final legislative hurdle.

PRESIDENTIAL CALL TO REPRESENTATIVE FASCELL

KEY OBJECTIVES:

1. Fascell should obtain the agreement of the House Foreign Affairs Committee to inform Representative Obey (House Appropriations Committee) that the Foreign Affairs Committee has no objections to inclusion of the Lugar bill in the full year Continuing Resolution.
2. Fascell should call Obey and convey this message.

TALKING POINTS

-- I am calling to ask for your support on our Central American counterterrorism bill. Your committee held hearings on the bill and had a private intelligence briefing. Several members had private briefings and discussions.

-- On Thursday, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved by a bipartisan vote of 15-1 a compromise bill sponsored by Chairman Lugar and supported by Senator Pell. The Lugar bill authorizes \$21 million in counterterrorism assistance to public security forces for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica, plus a \$1 million witness protection fund. The bill also incorporates numerous human rights safeguards and reporting requirements, including Presidential certifications.

-- I am prepared to accept the Lugar compromise even though it reduces considerably the bill put forward by the Administration. I am prepared to sign this bill into law as part of the Continuing Resolution (CR) if you agree that it can be included in the CR.

-- For us to proceed on this basis, Representative Obey will need to hear from the Committee. As the House leader in the foreign assistance title of the CR, Obey needs to know that there are no objections from the authorizing committee.

-- This procedure will allow us to enact the bill into law before the recess.

-- It is very important that we act now - already nearly six months after the Marine deaths in El Salvador - to send a message to those who might want to continue these terrorist actions.