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Ing. José Napoleón Duarte
Presidente Constitucional de la República

San Salvador, 21 de octubre de 1985

The Honorable Mayor,
Cambridge, Massachusetts
U. S. A.

Dear Mayor:

It is with great honor that I address myself to you, expressing my most cordial regards. I feel that as Mayor of -- your community there exists a special bond between us for it was during my terms as Mayor of San Salvador, 1964-1970, that I became acutely aware of the social problems of my people -- that could be dealt with at the level of municipal government. This represented a great challenge to me during those formative years, as I am sure it does for you today, and has served as the foundation of my ensuing years in public service.

At the same time, I am hoping, through this letter, to share with you some of the concerns of my Presidential Office. As you can well imagine, problems abound as they do for any head of state, but under our particular circumstances, these reach a notoriety that affect the very pillars upon which our society is founded. Among the most pressing are those concerned with attempting to alleviate in whatever way possible the difficult circumstances in which the great majority of my fellow countrymen are forced to live.

At this stage of developments, I am sure it is common knowledge the situation of violence which foreign forces have imposed upon us. Equally well-known, I would hope, are the persevering efforts undertaken by this government in overcoming the crisis. Conscious of our moral obligations in the historical development of the free countries of the world, we are legislating programs of economic reactivation that will restore peace in our country and consolidate the democratic process -- which, for the first time, holds a legitimate place in our system of government.



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The wave of terrorism we are all suffering from has left 50,000 dead and more than 400,000 refugees, settled in 46 areas within 189 municipalities directly affected by the war. While international relief has been generous, our needs are greater than ever. Thus our appeal to your spirit of comprehension and solidarity which would allow us to attend to the most pressing needs of family groups, victims of irrational terrorism.

Following is a list of some of those items that would most surely make a difference in the lives of those affected, most of them humble Salvadoreans "displaced" by the war but who desperately want the opportunity to work:

- sewing machines would provide work for a family of 6 or 7;
- hospital beds: in a country of nearly five million inhabitants, we count with only 5,523 beds;
- wheelchairs for victims of the war, many of them paraplegics;
- equipment for garbage collection: the urban zones have grown disproportionately as a result of the war;
- tools and implements for arts and crafts: these would permit the development of cottage industries among families settled in the refugees camps, allowing them to earn their livelihood now and continuing to do so once they return to their villages;
- means of transportation, ranging from buses to ambulances to motorcycles: in the last five years, terrorists have destroyed some 900 buses at an estimated cost of over 130 million colones.

As you can see, the needs are as great as the faith of the people who will receive with unmatched joy the help their generous American friends can and will contribute.



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This request which we are placing for your generous consideration is being extended to your colleagues in other American cities, asking them to join us in a major Plan of Cooperation for the people of El Salvador. We are confident that your response will be in the tradition of the generosity of the U.S. public which always rises to the occasion in times of emergency.

We ask that you contact our Consul General in your state to coordinate the reception and transportation of the incoming donations. For whatever other data you might like or need, please feel free to contact the President's Private Secretary, Mr. Alvaro Salazar Brenes. His number in San Salvador: (503)-24-1942.

In the name of the people of El Salvador, please accept my most heartfelt and anticipated thanks for your invaluable cooperation.



JOSE NAPOLEON DUARTE,
Presidente de la República.



CONSULADOS DE EL SALVADOR EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS

DE AMERICA

NUEVA YORK, Cónsul General: Sr. Julio Donaldo Golcher
46 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016
Tel. (01-212) 889-3608 / 3609
Cable: CONSALVA Telex: WUI (113) 62360
Jurisdicción en los Estados de: Nueva York, New Jersey,
Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan,
Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine,
New Hampshire

LOS ANGELES, Cónsul General: Lic. Ana Margoth Méndez López
634 South Spring St., Los Angeles, California 90014
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SAN FRANCISCO, Cónsul General: Lic. Gloria Ayala de Gavidia
870 Market St., Room 721, San Francisco, California 94102
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Jurisdicción en los Estados de: California, Oregon, Nevada,
Washington, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana,

NUEVA ORLEANS, Cónsul General: Dr. Byron Larios
1136 International Trade Mart, New Orleans, La. 70130
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Jurisdicción en los Estados de: Louisiana, Mississippi, Iowa,
Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri, Nebraska,
Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota

MIAMI, Cónsul General: Ing. Roberto Hirleman
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Tel. 305-371-8850 Cable: CONSALVA
Jurisdicción en los Estados de: Florida, Georgia, Virginia,
South Carolina, North Carolina, West Virginia

HOUSTON, Cónsul General: Ing. Enrique Soundy
6655 Hillcraft, Suite 112, Houston, Texas 77081
Tel. (713) 270-6239 Cable: CONSALVA
Jurisdicción en los Estados de: Texas, Kansas, New México,
Colorado, Oklahoma

WASHINGTON, D.C., Secretario de la Embajada y
Cónsul General: Srita. Miriam Adilia Armas Castro
2308 California St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008
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Cable: EMBASALVA Telex: 64277(WUI) 248465 (RCA)

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Comm. from Mayor Francis H. Duehay, transmitting a comm. from President Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador expressing his concern for the unrest in his country & making an appeal for some items which would make a difference in the lives of those affected by the war.

*copy sent to the City Manager
11/20/85 mhr*

In City Council,

November 18, 1985

*- 11/18/1985 -
Referred to
The
City Manager*