



1997 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 21

March 24, 1998 - Introduced by Representatives BOCK, R. YOUNG, BOYLE, KRUG, PLOUFF, NOTESTEIN, ROBSON and SERATTI. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** memorializing Congress to close the School of the Americas.

2 Whereas, the School of the Americas was established in Panama in 1946 and
3 is presently located in Fort Benning, Georgia; and

4 Whereas, the School of the Americas has trained over 59,000 troops from Latin
5 America and the Caribbean since its inception in 1946 and currently trains 900 to
6 2,000 such soldiers per year at Fort Benning, Georgia, at an annual cost to the
7 American Taxpayers of nearly \$20,000,000; and

8 Whereas, it has been admitted that training manuals used for years by the
9 School of the Americas have advocated execution, false imprisonment, physical
10 abuse and other forms of torture; and

11 Whereas, many School of the Americas graduates have been involved in a wide
12 range of human rights abuses; and

13 Whereas, 2 of the 3 Salvadoran officers cited as being responsible for the 1980
14 assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero were School of the Americas graduates,
15 including death squad founder and leader Robert D'Aubuisson; and

1 Whereas, 10 of the 12 officers cited as being involved in the massacre of 900
2 civilians at El Mozote in El Salvador graduated from the School of the Americas; and

3 Whereas, 19 of the 26 officers cited in the November 1989 murder of 6 Jesuit
4 priests, their housekeeper and her daughter in San Salvador, El Salvador, were
5 School of the Americas graduates; and

6 Whereas, Guatemalan Colonel Julio Roberto Alpirez, a CIA asset who was
7 implicated in the killings of U.S. citizen Michael Devine and Efraim Bamaca,
8 husband of U.S. lawyer Jennifer Harbury, is a School of the Americas graduate; and

9 Whereas, the editorial boards of the *Asbury Park Press*, *Atlanta Constitution*,
10 *Bangor Daily News*, *Boston Globe*, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *Courier News*, *Des Moines*
11 *Register*, *New York Times*, *San Antonio Express-News* and *Syracuse Post-Standard*,
12 among others, have called for the closure of the School of the Americas; and

13 Whereas, the *New York Times*, in its September 28, 1996, edition stated, “an
14 institution ... [the School of the Americas] so clearly out of tune with American values
15 ... should be shut down without delay”; and

16 Whereas, the California chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars has passed a
17 resolution urging the closure of the School of the Americas, and the national
18 organization is deliberating the same resolution; and

19 Whereas, there is growing opposition to the School of the Americas in the U.S.
20 house of representatives; and

21 Whereas, in September 1997 the U.S. house of representatives came within 7
22 votes (210–217) of passing an amendment to the 1998 Foreign Aid Appropriations
23 Bill that would have cut \$1,500,000 from the school’s funding; and

24 Whereas, the U.S. house of representatives’ vote represents a sharp contrast to
25 votes in 1993 and 1994, when the school’s reputation was not as widely known and

1 when amendments to cut the school's funding were defeated by 82-vote and 42-vote
2 margins; and

3 Whereas, among the Wisconsin delegation to Congress there was recently
4 nearly unanimous support of an amendment to the appropriations bill that would
5 significantly cut the school's funding, 3 Republicans and 5 Democrats voting in favor
6 of the amendment and none voting against it; now, therefore, be it

7 ***Resolved by the assembly, That*** the Wisconsin assembly urges the President
8 and the Congress of the United States to support the closure of the United States
9 Army School of the Americas; and, be it further

10 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide copies of this resolution
11 to President Clinton and to each member of this state's congressional delegation.

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(END)