

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 980

To require the Secretary of the Army to close the United States Army
School of the Americas.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 27, 1997

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and
Mr. WELLSTONE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and
referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Army to close the United
States Army School of the Americas.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) Continued operation of the United States
6 Army School of the Americas, Fort Benning, Geor-
7 gia, with its history of abusive graduates, stands as
8 a barrier to establishing a new and constructive rela-
9 tionship with Latin American militaries after the
10 cold war.

1 (2) The United States Army School of the
2 Americas graduates include some of the worst
3 human rights abusers in the western hemisphere, in-
4 cluding—

5 (A) El Salvador death squad leader Ro-
6 berto D'Aubuisson;

7 (B) Panamanian dictator and drug dealer
8 Manuel Noriega;

9 (C) nineteen Salvadoran soldiers linked to
10 the 1989 murder of six Jesuit priests, their
11 housekeeper and her daughter;

12 (D) Argentinian dictator Leopoldo Galtieri,
13 a leader of the so-called “dirty little war” re-
14 sponsible for the deaths of 30 civilians;

15 (E) two of the three killers of Archbishop
16 Oscar Romero of El Salvador;

17 (F) ten of the twelve officers responsible
18 for the murder of 900 civilians in the El Salva-
19 doran village El Mozote; and

20 (G) three of the five officers involved in the
21 1980 rape and murder of four United States
22 churchwomen in El Salvador.

23 (3) Continued operation of the United States
24 Army School of the Americas continues to associate
25 the United States with the abuses of its graduates.

1 (4) In October, 1996, then Secretary of Defense
2 Perry announced that the United States plans to es-
3 tablish an inter-American center for defense studies
4 (later determined to be named the Center for Hemi-
5 spheric Defense Studies) to provide professional
6 training and education relevant to defense manage-
7 ment in a democratic constitutional context to indi-
8 viduals from throughout the Americas.

9 (5) Closing the United States Army School of
10 the Americas would not bar the Armed Forces of the
11 United States from continuing to train Latin Amer-
12 ican armed forces in a relationship between those
13 armed forces that can be a productive one.

14 **SEC. 2. CLOSURE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SCHOOL OF**
15 **THE AMERICAS.**

16 (a) CLOSURE REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
18 of the Army shall close the military education and training
19 facility known as the United States Army School of the
20 Americas, Fort Benning, Georgia.

21 (b) REPEAL OF STATUTORY AUTHORITY.—(1) Sec-
22 tion 4415 of title 10, United States Code, is repealed.

- 1 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter
- 2 407 of such title is amended by striking out the item relat-
- 3 ing to such section.

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