

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

20 May 1980

DOCUMENT 1-172/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr M. COPPIETERS

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the increasing terror, kidnappings and
savage murders perpetrated on missionaries
and development assistants in Guatemala

The European Parliament

- considering that both within the framework of development cooperation and on the initiative of churches and religious associations numerous development assistants and missionaries from various Member States are, with unlimited idealism, endeavouring to improve the lot of the people of Guatemala,
 - noting that their profound dedication is naturally directed primarily at helping the exploited rural population which is being crushed by the feudal oligarchy of big landowners,
 - having regard to the ever longer 'death lists' of extreme right wing death commandos,
 - considering that the disappearance without trace on 1 May last of the Philippine priest Conrado de la Cruz was a further step in the ruthless escalation of terror, violence and murder in which in 1979 alone 1,371 social workers, agriculturalists, students and intellectuals met with violent deaths in Guatemala,
 - noting that since 1 May over 40 people, many of whose mutilated bodies have since been found, have been kidnapped in the Republic of Guatemala,
 - profoundly shocked by the report that on 12 May last Father Walter Voordeckers was shot dead in front of his home in Santa Lucia Cotzumalguapa as the next victim on the 'death list',
 - considering that the death commandos are clearly able to 'operate' with impunity,
1. Requests its President, the Commission and the Council to inform the Government of the Guatemalan Republic of its profound horror at and condemnation of the wave of terror and massacre of socially aware Guatemalans, development assistants and missionaries;
 2. Appeals to the governments of the Member States to make use of all international contacts to arrive at effective, coordinated action to combat the violence, the scandalous violation of the most elementary human rights and the outrageous social injustices in Guatemala;
 3. Requests its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council.