

1 [Supporting Closure of the School of the Americas]

2

3 **Resolution urging President George Bush and Congress of the United States to support**
4 **the closure of the United States Army School of the Americas..**

5

6 WHEREAS, The School of the Americas was established in Panama in 1946 and is
7 presently located in Fort Benning, Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, The School of the Americas has trained over 59,000 troops from Latin
9 America and he Caribbean since its inception and currently trains 900 to 2,000 such soldiers
10 per year at all annual cost to the American taxpayers of nearly \$20 million; and

11 WHEREAS, Training manuals used by the School of the Americas have advocated
12 execution; false imprisonment, physical abuse, and other forms of torture; and

13 WHEREAS, Many School of the Americas graduates have been involved in a wide
14 range of human rights abuses; and

15 WHEREAS, Two of the three Salvadoran officers cited as being responsible for the
16 1980 assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero were School of the Americas graduates,
17 including death squad founder and leader Robert D'Aubuisson; and

18 WHEREAS, Nineteen of the 26 officers cited in the November, 1989 murder of six
19 Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and her daughter in San Salvador, El Salvador, were School
20 of the Americas graduates; and

21 WHEREAS, Ten of the twelve officers cited as being involved in the massacre of 900
22 civilians at El Mozote in El Salvador graduated from the School of the Americas; and

23 WHEREAS, Guatemalan Colonel Julio Roberto Alpirez, who was implicated in the
24 killing of US citizen Michael Devine and Efraim Bamaca, a husband of US lawyer, Jennifer
25 Harbury, is a School of the Americas graduate; and

1 WHEREAS, The editorial Boards of the Ashbury Park Press, Atlanta Constitution, San
2 Francisco Bay Guardian, Bangor Daily News, Boston Globe, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Courier
3 News, Des Moines Register, New York Times, San Antonio Express-News, and Syracuse
4 Post-Standard have called for the closure of the School of the Americas; and

5 WHEREAS, The New York Times, in it's September 28, 1996 edition stated, " An
6 institution (The School of the Americas) so clearly out of tune with American values... should
7 be shut down without delay"; and

8 WHEREAS, The California chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars has passed a
9 resolution to close the School of the Americas and the national organization is deliberating the
10 same resolution; and

11 WHEREAS, there is a growing opposition to the School of the Americas in the United
12 States House of Representatives; and

13 WHEREAS, In September 1997 the House of Representatives came within seven votes
14 (210-217) of passing an amendment to the 1998 Foreign Aid Appropriations Bill which would
15 have cut \$1.5 million from the School's funding; and

16 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives vote represents a sharp contrast to 1993
17 and 1994 when amendments to cut the School's funding were defeated by 82- and 42- vote
18 margins; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED. That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
20 urges President George Bush and Congress of the United States to support the closure of the
21 United States Army School of the Americas; and be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges Senators Dianne
23 Feinstein and Barbara Boxer as well as Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi to support the closure
24 of the United States Army School of the Americas; and be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors request that the Clerk of the
2 Board transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the United States.

3
4 **SUPERVISOR AMMIANO**

5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails Resolution

File Number: 010289

Date Passed:

Resolution urging President George Bush and Congress of the United States to support the closure of the United States Army School of the Americas.

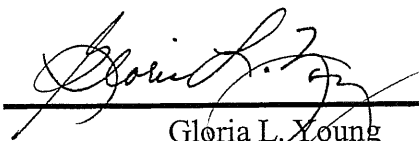
February 20, 2001 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, McGoldrick, Leno, Newsom, Peskin,
Sandoval, Yee

Absent: 1 - Maxwell

File No. 010289

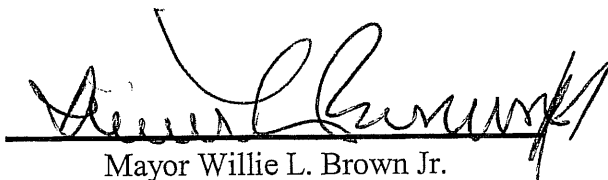
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on February 20, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

MAR - 2 2001

Date Approved



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.