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File



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 August 1984

EL SALVADOR

Thank you for your letter of 30 July about the line which the Prime Minister might take with President Duarte in response to his request for economic aid and other assistance.

The Prime Minister is grateful for the efforts which have been made to meet some of President Duarte's requests, as well as for the information from US sources of Nicaraguan support for the guerrillas in El Salvador.

The Prime Minister thinks, however, that what we have to offer President Duarte is still very modest. She agrees that in practice it is not feasible to offer places to El Salvadorean officers on Staff College courses before 1986, and hopes that the offer itself will have some reassuring effect. But she thinks that the offer of civilian supplies and equipment should be increased to £100,000 if it is to have any significant impact.

BP

I should be grateful if you could let me know urgently whether the additional money can be found within the aid programme so that the Prime Minister's letter to President Duarte can issue early next week.

Charles Powell

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.