



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER **PRIME MINISTER'S** August, 1984

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 141/84

cc MASTER
OPS

Dear Mr. President,

Let me say again how very glad I was to have the opportunity to talk with you on 21 July. I was heartened by your robust approach to the problems which you are having to tackle. Your election marked a vital stage in restoring to the people of El Salvador hope in the future through democratic progress. You have our full support in this endeavour.

During our very interesting conversation, you raised with me the possibility of economic aid for El Salvador and of the provision of scholarships for some of your military officers.

I have looked into this and can now tell you that we are ready to reintroduce a programme of technical co-operation with El Salvador. Training awards in Britain might form the main element of this.

In addition we should be pleased to provide £100,000 worth of urgently needed civilian supplies or equipment.

We are ready to discuss your requirements and priorities with your officials through our Mission in San Salvador so that these aid offers can be rapidly implemented.

As regards scholarships for military officers, we shall

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make available as soon as possible one or two staff college places for suitably qualified Salvadorean officers with a working knowledge of English. Arrangements for military scholarships at staff colleges and other institutions are made well in advance. Our Ministry of Defence will be considering later this year applications for courses in 1986, and we shall be happy to have nominations from you for those courses. I shall ensure that you are informed if any earlier vacancy becomes available.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Rangana Shetty

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: HE Ing Jose Napoleon Duarte
President of El Salvador

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

SAHACP

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

~~Dear Mr President~~

CAVEAT.....

Let me say again how very glad I was to have the opportunity to talk with you on 21 July. I was heartened by your robust approach to the problems which you are having to tackle. Your election marked a vital stage in restoring to the people of El Salvador hope in the future through democratic progress. You have our ^{full} support in this endeavour; ~~our appointment of Mr Julian Amery as the British Government's special representative at your inauguration was an expression of our goodwill.~~

During our very interesting conversation, you raised with me the possibility of economic aid for El Salvador and of the provision of scholarships for some of your military officers.

have looked into this & can now tell you that
~~I am now glad to tell you that we are ready to~~
we shall be ready to
 reintroduce a programme of technical cooperation with El Salvador; ~~we suggest that~~ training awards in Britain might form the main element of this.

In addition we should be pleased to provide ~~about~~
~~£100,000~~
~~£50,000~~ worth of urgently needed civilian supplies or /equipment.

Please type for PM's signature. Sent to FCO for despatch after signature CM.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

EL SALVADOR: Int. Sit. Rec 81

equipment.

Through our Mission in San Salvador ^{We shall be} very ready to discuss ^{your requirements} with your officials ^{your requirements} and ~~priorities~~ so that these aid offers can be rapidly implemented.

With regards ~~to~~ scholarships for military officers, we would ~~hope~~ ^{shall} to make available as soon as possible one or two ^{Staff College} places for suitably qualified Salvadorean officers with a working knowledge of English. Arrangements for military scholarships at staff colleges and other institutions are made well in advance. Our Ministry of Defence will be considering later this year applications for courses in 1986, and we ~~would~~ ^{shall} be happy to have nominations from you for those courses. ~~We shall let you~~ ^{I shall ensure that you are informed} know if any earlier vacancy becomes available.

With best wishes.

CB

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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.

BT

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.