

OPS

Subject filed on Belize,  
dispute with Guatemala, March 1980

Please Quote



T 26A/82

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 26A/82.....**

Office Of The Prime Minister

Belmopan,  
Cayo District, Belize  
Central America

9 February 1982

Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London

Dear Prime Minister,

Time is going by (it is now five months since independence) and we have not been able to reach a settlement with Guatemala, although we are trying hard to do so with the help of the United States.

According to the Guatemalan Foreign Minister, they are awaiting the results of their elections on March 7, 1982, before doing anything. Then afterwards (depending on the outcome) they will resume negotiations.

Because of this uncertain situation would you please review the time table of the "appropriate period" and arrange for the British Garrison to be in Belize for at least three years or until a definite settlement is reached and Guatemala takes out of its constitution its unfounded claim to Belize. The British presence here is an essential factor of stability in Central America.

I am sorry to bother you with this request at a time when you are applying difficult policies, which I trust time and history will vindicate.

Kindest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

(GEORGE PRICE),  
Prime Minister