

OPS

subject filed on: Belize,
March 1980, Dispute
with Guatemala.



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 94/82

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

4 May, 1982.

Dear Prime Minister,

I have not replied before to your letter of 9 February in which you asked us to review the time-table for the withdrawal of the British garrison from Belize because we were waiting to see whether progress could be made towards a settlement with Guatemala in the period following the elections there. In fact the situation has become even more uncertain. We have now decided that we should not proceed with plans to withdraw the garrison by the agreed date of 21 June. At this stage we are prepared to extend it by a period of three months beyond that date. No announcement will be made about this but we will make clear if asked that the garrison will be staying for the time being.

We fully understand your concern and it is our intention to watch developments with Guatemala closely, to remain in touch with the US Government and to consult you as the situation and our ideas develop.

Every good wish.

Yours sincerely

The Honourable George Price.

Royall Kalber