



h.s.
Amd

Pompey Minister

Rather than send an acknowledgment,
you may want to say something in
Cabinet tomorrow.

Amd

PM/81/11

PRIME MINISTER

1. I would like you to know how well Nick Ridley has done over the Belize-Guatemalan negotiations. Neither he nor I have any illusions about the outstanding problems. But the mixture of patience and firmness which Nick has deployed over a long period to persuade the stubborn and suspicious Belizeans to accept this agreement has really been admirable. He has also helped to erode the Guatemalans' claims, and gain their confidence, by some personal diplomacy with Castillo Valdez, their Foreign Minister, to the point where we can no longer be accused of forcing Belize to cede chunks of her territory.

2. Nick and I will now do what we can to follow up quickly on this first important step to independence, and, eventually to a lower British financial and military commitment in Belize.

mt

(CARRINGTON)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

11 March 1981