

OPS

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION.

subject on: Chile, September 1979, Relations with Chile

Madrid, 30th August, 1983

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of GREAT BRITAIN.

PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL MESSAGE SERIAL No. T 123^{0A}/83

Dear Prime Minister,

I hope you will allow me a little of your time to draw your attention to a problem that, because of its symbolism and now stark reality, must weigh on the conscience of all who wish to live in freedom and peace within a State of law.

I am referring to the situation in Chile, a decade after the violent assumption of power by General Pinochet.

Leaders of the Opposition - Socialists, Radicals, Christian Democrats - united on a common platform, have publicly asked me to stimulate the efforts of the Governments of Western Europe to help in the return of democracy and the respect of Human Rights in Chile, a country that was for decades an example of democracy for the countries of the South American Continent and now sees them trampled underfoot.

My own experiences as an opponent of an authoritarian regime; as a citizen who has been aware of the historical weakness of the international conscience while appreciating the gestures of leading politicians who wished to see a free Spain; my responsibility today as President of the Government of the youngest European democracy, in its period of consolidation, still beset by difficulties yet full of hope, compel me to face up to this duty of giving special attention to the demand of the political organisations and Trades Unions of Chile.

I cannot, nor do I wish, to don any other mantle to seek your support for an act of solidarity to help the Chilean people to come through their present difficulties and to recover their full rights to decide their own destiny.

The establishment of a common goal by the democratic political forces, the constructive attitude of the Unions and the firmness of all their quests for liberty and respect of Human Rights, constitute an internal hope. If these are accompanied by a show of external solidarity, the way will be that much easier.

I am therefore putting forward the suggestion that we should jointly seek a way for an initiative that, while avoiding anything that might be construed as interference in the internal affairs of Chile, will be seen as important and unequivocal support for the re-establishment of democracy in Chile. I am open to any suggestions as to the content and form that this gesture should have. Once I know your opinion and that of other European leaders to whom I have written, I will attempt to synthesize all the views put forward, and the result would be submitted to you for final consideration.

Thank you for your attention. I know of your sensibility on the matter I have set before you, as I have to other European leaders, and I hope that by our efforts we shall all help to increase the number of free and democratic countries on the map of the world.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Felipe González.