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SUBJECT: HONDURAS; Int Sir

Dec '81

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S 4 October 1983

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 143/83

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your letter of 1 September explaining the views of your Government on the problems of Central America and your hopes for their peaceful settlement.

I can assure you that the troubled situation in Central America is a matter of concern to the British Government and people. As you may know, we and our European Community partners made a statement after the European Council meeting in Stuttgart in June which expressed support for the current efforts of the Contadora Group and underlined the need for the establishment of democracy and the strict observance of human rights throughout the region.

I have followed subsequent developments closely and am aware of the continuing efforts of the Contadora Group and of the Central American republics to clarify and resolve the problems of the region by peaceful negotiation. I sympathise with you in the daunting problems which you face and hope that in a spirit of mutual understanding and concern for democratic principles it will be possible to find ways to bring about a peaceful solution acceptable to the five Central American governments involved. We believe such a solution is best sought through constructive regional dialogue.

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I was most interested to hear from Sir Geoffrey Howe about Dr. Paz Barnica's recent call on him to explain your Government's attitude to current attempts to bring about a peaceful solution to the problems of Central America.

I should also like to take this opportunity to express my best wishes for your rapid and complete recovery from your recent illness.

Your sincerely

Raymond-Delebar

His Excellency Dr. Roberto Suazo Cordova