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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 February, 1985

I enclose a copy of a message to the Prime Minister from President Duarte of El Salvador.

I should be grateful for a draft reply.

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(Charles Powell)

P Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



EMBAJADA DE EL SALVADOR
D-026

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T.36-1/85

SUBJECT
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9 WELBECK HOUSE,
62 WELBECK STREET,
LONDON W1M 7HB
TEL: 01-486 8182/3

London, 25th February 1985

The Prime Minister
House of Commons
Palace of Westminster
London SW1

R26

Dear Prime Minister,

I have been instructed by H.E. President Napoleón Duarte to convey to Your Excellency the following message regarding the XLI Human Rights meeting being held in Geneva:

"I have the honour to address Your Excellency regarding the XLI Human Rights meeting being held in Geneva, and where the human rights situation in El Salvador is being discussed. On this matter I wish to convey to Your Excellency that even though El Salvador recognizes the value of the Human Rights Commission, it feels distraught for the partial and unjust treatment that the aforementioned Commission has allotted to my country. El Salvador is for the first time in its history enjoying the fruits of democracy and liberty. In obedience to the Salvadorean will, I am bound to struggle for the establishment of democracy in my country on the grounds of social justice and the pursuit of the rights that every individual possesses by nature. From the beginning of my administration, my country has been guided towards the fulfillment of an open, just and pluralist society. Thus, we are heading towards the achievement of fundamental liberties and the begetting of human rights. It has been most unfortunate that our efforts have been overlooked by the last United Nations' General Assembly. As you are well aware, in the XXXIX General Assembly, Mexico and other countries, proposed a resolution that among other things lacked a firm knowledge of the Salvadorean reality and which was absolutely equivocal. On the other hand, Venezuela, Costa Rica, and other Central American countries were able to modify this resolution, but only to the extent of making it a less impartial one. In the present meeting of the Human Rights Commission where El Salvador is being discussed, I have been informed that Venezuela is working on a resolution project which acknowledges the human rights improvement in my country and which lets the facts talk for themselves. It is to this avail that in the name of the people, the government of El Salvador, and my own, I wish to express to the honourable government which Your Excellency presides, a most formal call grounded in the democratic values that should unite our countries and in the collective effort to achieve liberty and social justice, to support the aforementioned Venezuelan resolution project. I am totally confident that the definite support of Your Excellency's government in the present General Assembly would undoubtedly enhance the efforts achieved by my government regarding human rights provisions and further the process of democratization

so much alive in El Salvador. I rest assured, recognizing the democratic beliefs of Your Excellency, that you will respond positively to the sentiments for my people and my government. Our present struggle, which converges with yours, is aimed at eliminating the roots of social discontent, thus reaching out for a better future which I want to offer and provide to the future generations of my nation.

José Napoleón Duarte
President of the Republic of El Salvador"

I avail myself of this opportunity to express to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.



Yours truly,
Roberto Rivas Gardiner
Roberto Rivas Gardiner
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.