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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 June, 1983

Dear John,

Call by Mexican Foreign Minister, 28 June

I enclose ^{attached folder} briefing for the Prime Minister's meeting with the Mexican Foreign Minister, Lic. Sepulveda, at 1000 on 28 June. This covers Central America, South America, international economic issues and oil, as well as some background on Mexico itself.

Lic. Sepulveda will be in London mainly to hold a conference of Mexican Ambassadors in Western Europe (24-27 June). Before coming to London he met with the UN Secretary General in New York to discuss the situation in Central America. After his visit to Britain he will pay an official visit to Sweden.

We understand that Lic. Sepulveda hopes to discuss the situation in Central America and the Mexican economic crisis, which may lead into a discussion of such wider issues as the international economic situation and the relationship between developed and developing countries. We expect these subjects to be covered also at the meeting with Sir Geoffrey Howe at 1200 the same day.

On Central America (Brief A) the Prime Minister may wish to assure Lic Sepulveda of our continuing support for the Contadora Group's efforts to set up a regional peace conference, and of our desire to be kept informed of its progress. Although we want to follow events in the region closely we do not at this stage see what more European countries could usefully do to help. Lic Sepulveda is likely to plead for retention of the UK garrison in Belize. This would also be a useful opportunity to thank Lic Sepulveda for Mexican support for Belize.

On international economic issues (Briefs C and D) Lic Sepulveda may call for a show of flexibility by OECD countries in the closing stages of UNCTAD VI.

Sepulveda will be accompanied by Lic Daniel de la Pedraja, Director General for Western Europe in the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lic Manual Rodriguez Arriaga, Principal Private Secretary to the Mexican Foreign Minister, and the Mexican Ambassador, His Excellency Lic. Francisco Cuevas-Cancino. (I attach personality notes on the Mexican Foreign Minister and the Mexican Ambassador).

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/Mr Ure

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Mr Ure will attend from here.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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AM 24/6

with compliments

Christine Ferguson

MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA DEPT.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
S.W.1. 21/6/1983

LEADING PERSONALITY REPORTS

SEPULVEDA AMOR, LIC BERNARDO

Minister of Foreign Relations since 1 December 1982.

Born Mexico City, 14 December 1941.

Graduated with honours in law at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in 1964. Obtained a masters degree in international law from Cambridge University in 1966. Shortly afterwards he wrote a much-praised paper justifying Mexico's decision not to follow other Latin American countries in breaking diplomatic relations with Cuba. His first government job from 1968-1971 was as Deputy Director-General of Legal Matters in the Presidency, in which capacity he acted as a legal adviser to various government institutions. Adviser to the Minister of Finance from 1971-1975 specialising in foreign investment in Mexico. Director-General of International Financial Affairs in the Ministry of Finance 1976-1981, initially working directly to Lic. de la Madrid, then Deputy Minister of Finance. In this period he was Mexican delegate on the United Nations Committee on Transnationals. He was rapporteur of this Committee from 1978-80 and Chairman from 1980-81. He also served on Mexican delegations to various United Nation's conferences, including the Law of the Sea Conference from 1974-75, and at various meetings of bilateral Mixed Commissions.

From 1977-80 he was a member of the Mexican delegations to the Annual Assemblies of the IMF and World Bank, and of the Interamerican Development Bank, and to the meetings of the Council of the Latin American Economic System.

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Has long been politically active in the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). In 1976 he was a member of the group of advisers in the party's Institute of Political, Economic and Social Studies which was responsible for formulating the government programme for 1976-82. He has also belonged to PRI committees concerned with political action, ideology and publishing. In 1981 he was dismissed from the Finance Ministry because he would not support the candidacy of the then Finance Minister for the Presidency. Shortly thereafter he became special adviser on international affairs to Lic. Miguel de la Madrid, then Minister for Planning. In October 1981 he was appointed Secretary for International Affairs of the National Executive Committee of the PRI.

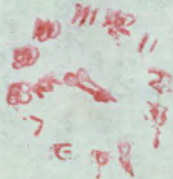
In March 1982 appointed Mexican Ambassador to the USA, in a move which was generally seen as a preparation for his appointment as Foreign Minister when President de la Madrid assumed office on 1 December 1982.

He is a Professor of Law in the Colegio de México. Helped to found the Centre of Studies on the United States. Has written many books on a variety of subjects including GATT, Law of the Sea, the United Nations, and foreign investment in Mexico.

Tall and elegant, he looks the image of a traditional European diplomat, with courteous old-world manners. He speaks slowly and judiciously.

Married with several children. Speaks good English.

27 JUN 1983



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