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FILE

SH



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

18 September, 1984

Mexico: Possible Message from the Prime Minister  
to President de la Madrid

You wrote to me on 17 September enclosing a draft message from the Prime Minister to President de la Madrid which Mr. Channon might deliver during his forthcoming visit to Mexico.

*BA*  
The Prime Minister finds the draft stilted and patronising. She is ready to send a message but only if a better one can be drafted. I should be grateful if you could let me have an improved version as soon as possible.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and the Minister for Trade.

P. F. Ricketts, Esq., C. D. POWELL  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

*mg*

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It is a  
rather  
informal

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Prime Minister

letter - will  
send a message if  
a letter one can

You don't normally like  
sending Ministers with <sup>indefinite</sup> <sub>me</sub>  
messages. since it suggests  
that they are just  
messengers.

It is also  
declaratory rather than  
persuasive; and ages the  
French.

But perhaps Latins  
attach more importance to  
this ~~at~~ some degree of  
formality.

Agree:

(a) to send message?

(b) Mr. Channon to speak with your <sup>or</sup> authority?

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 September 1984

Dear Charles,

Mexico: Possible Message from the Prime Minister to  
President de la Madrid

Mr Paul Channon's visit to Mexico from 19-25 September on the occasion of the Anglo-Mexican Joint Commission will provide an opportunity to strengthen our relations with Mexico particularly in the trade promotion field. A most effective way of doing this would be for Mr Channon to deliver a personal message from the Prime Minister.

Competition for trade with Mexico is intense. The French Minister for Trade recently delivered a message from President Mitterrand which in the judgement of our Embassy will have given substantial backing for French efforts to improve their share of the market. A message of our own would give valuable support to our trading interests in Mexico, ranging from the SICARTSA Steel Mill project to the possibility of substantial future orders for educational equipment. On the political side it would reinforce our efforts to influence Mexican policies in the right direction in regional affairs and the Contadora process, and in the handling of international debt problems. And it would be timely to send a message which looks forward to President de la Madrid's State Visit to this country next year.

I enclose a draft message for the Prime Minister's approval. It is not intended for publication, but we would propose if necessary to make it clear to the press that one had been delivered. The draft deliberately includes one or two rhetorical flourishes of the kind appreciated by Latin American politicians - even one as relatively austere as President de la Madrid.

I am sending a copy of this letter and its enclosure to the Private Secretaries to the Secretary of State for Trade & Industry, and the Minister for Trade.

Yr ever,

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

*P F Ricketts*

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM  
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:  
His Excellency  
Lic. Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado  
President of the United Mexican States

Your Reference

- ~~Top Secret~~
- ~~Secret~~
- Confidential
- ~~Restricted~~
- ~~Unclassified~~

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:  
  
Mr President

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

I very much welcome Paul Channon's visit to Mexico accompanied by a group of leading British businessmen, which coincides with the first meeting for several years of the Mexican-British Joint Commission. I hope that these events will serve to give fresh impetus to the growing economic and industrial cooperation between our two countries.

I know that Mexico has been through a period of serious economic difficulty and that many problems still exist. But I and my colleagues have admired the strength of purpose with which you and your Government have pursued the difficult but necessary adjustment programme and the fortitude with which the Mexican people have borne the sacrifices which this involved. We have noted particularly your success in reducing the budget deficit; in strengthening the external account; in reducing the rate of inflation; and in improving the prospects for economic growth.

/I

Enclosures—flag(s).....

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I have also been encouraged to hear of the recent agreement on a multi year rescheduling of public sector debt following negotiations with the banks involved.

I hope that Britain can continue to play an important part in Mexico's future economic development. I remember well the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of the Sicartsa II steel plant programme during my visit in 1981. I look forward to the successful completion of this project, the largest British aid-sponsored venture in Latin America, and the most important joint undertaking between our two countries. I hope it will pave the way for further British participation in Mexico's development.

This is a critical time in the affairs of the Central American region. The British Government have made it clear that we support the efforts being made to promote a peaceful solution to its problems, in which Mexico is playing a key role. The meeting of EC and Contadora Foreign Ministers in San Jose on 28 and 29 September will I hope strengthen the constructive relations between the countries of the region and the European Community.

I very much look forward to your State Visit to Britain next year. This will present an excellent opportunity to discuss these and other important matters of mutual interest.

