

cc OPS
Master



BEMAVQ

cc: Fco

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

5 August 1985

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 147/85

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 4 June proposing that a British Minister of Health should attend an international conference in Madrid from 7 - 9 October designed to help implement the health proposals made in the Contadora Health Plan.

You will be well aware of Britain's support for the efforts of the Contadora Group to reduce tensions in Central America. We share your view that peace in the region can best be advanced through the Contadora process.

As you say there is also a real need to try to improve the social and economic conditions which are at the root of many of the region's difficulties. The European Community's readiness substantially to increase its aid to Central America can make a valuable contribution to meeting this need.

Public health is clearly one area where much remains to be done in Central America, and I believe your initiative is timely and deserves further study. I am therefore glad to agree in principle that the British Government should be represented at the international conference you have

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proposed. Unfortunately the dates suggested coincide with the annual Conservative Party Conference, so that I must leave open for the time being the level of British participation.

Yours sincerely
Raymond Bebb

His Excellency Senor Don Felipe Gonzalez Marquez



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 August 1985

Dear Charles,

Contadora Health Plan

Thank you for your letter of 20 June to Colin Budd enclosing the Spanish Prime Minister's invitation to the UK to participate in an international conference of Health Ministers to discuss the Contadora Health Plan. In view of our consistent support for the Contadora process, it would be difficult for us to ignore an initiative which coincides with the objectives of the Contadora Group. Consequently, Ministers here consider that we should agree in principle to be represented at the conference.

The Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) is the regional office of the WHO. They have prepared a Plan of Priority of Health Needs as a "bridge of peace ... amongst the peoples of Central America and Panama", and are looking for financial support both bilaterally and multilaterally. When they approached the ODA last year, they were told that we were willing to consider a "modest" contribution; it was also pointed out that increased EC aid had a knock-on effect on our bilateral programmes. The recent decision by the Foreign Affairs Council to increase Community aid to Central America gives us the opportunity to explore the possibility of channeling a modest amount of it into this proposal.

We have so far been unable to establish how our Community partners intend to react to the Spanish Prime Minister's invitation or the idea of using some of the increased EC aid to help implement the Contadora Health Plan. However, we would expect the response to be generally positive, although it is unlikely that a common position would be worked out before the Madrid Conference.

Unfortunately the dates chosen for the conference clash with the Conservative Party Conference and this will make Ministerial attendance difficult for anything except the first day of the Conference. Mr Raison would probably be able to attend on that day. A final decision on the level of attendance can be taken in the light of the level at which our major partners are represented. I attach a draft reply from the Prime Minister. I am copying this letter to Steve Godber (DHSS).

Yours ever,
Pete Ricketts

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

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DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Sr Felipe Gonzalez Marquez
Prime Minister of Spain

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Thank you for your letter of 4 June proposing that a British Minister of Health should attend an international conference in Madrid from 7-9 October designed to help implement the health proposals made in the Contadora Health Plan.

You will be well aware of Britain's ~~consistent and active~~ support for the efforts of the Contadora Group to negotiate a comprehensive ^{reduce} ~~settlement~~ of the tensions in Central America. We share your view that ~~contributions to~~ peace in region can best be ^{advanced} ~~channelled~~ through the Contadora process.

As you say there is also a real need to try to improve the social and economic conditions which are at the root of many of the region's difficulties. The European Community's readiness substantially to increase its aid to Central America can make a valuable contribution to meeting this need.

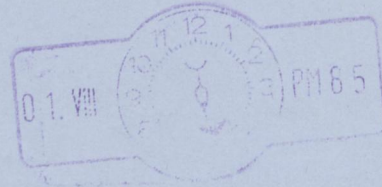
Enclosures—flag(s).....

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Public health is clearly one area where much remains to be done in Central America, and I believe your initiative is timely and ^{deserves} ~~worthy~~ of further study. I am therefore glad to agree in principle that the British Government should be represented at the international conference you have proposed. Unfortunately the dates suggested coincide with the annual Conservative Party Conference, so that I must leave open for the time being the level of British participation.

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Spain: Inst Sit 3/80



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From the Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

PO(6)6381/187

David Thomas Esq
Private Secretary to
The Rt Hon Baroness Young PC
Minister of State
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

NBM
CM
19/7

19 JULY 1985

Dear David

CONTADORA HEALTH PLAN: INVITATION FROM SPANISH PRIME MINISTER

can request if received

We have seen a copy of David Joy's submission to you of 5 July and the proposed interim reply, on which we have no comments.

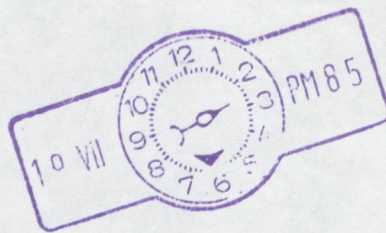
Since it has now emerged that this is a straightforward bid for overseas aid, we would not expect to field any health Ministers or DHSS officials.

I should be grateful if you would keep us informed as to whether FCO/ODA decide to be represented at the meeting on 7-9 October, and, if so, at what level, having regard to the clash with Conservative Party Conference.

Yours ever

Chris Joyce

CHRISTOPHER JOYCE
PS/Baroness Trumpington



18 JUL 1985