



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 July 1979

Prime Minister

John Bryan

Agree?

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The "provisional government of national reconstruction" has been installed in Nicaragua and has named a Cabinet. The change of government is not within the terms of the old Nicaraguan constitution, which the new government has abolished. The question of recognition therefore arises for HMG. Our Ambassador to Costa Rica has reported that the new government is in effective control of Nicaragua and can be expected to remain so for the foreseeable future. Our present criteria for recognition have therefore been met.

There are political reasons for getting on terms with the new Nicaraguan Government as early as possible. The new Cabinet is a generally moderate, broad-based team with, so far, only one Sandinista member. Early recognition would support the international efforts, led by the United States and the democratic Latin American states to seek closer ties with the new government with the aim of encouraging the influence of the moderate, democratic influences within it. They hope thereby to avert the possibility of a gradual takeover of the government by the extreme left-wing Sandinistas and the threat of a Castro-style government on the Latin American mainland.

The United States have announced recognition of the new government and France, the FRG, Italy and Denmark intend to recognise and/or establish contact with the new regime during the next few days.

On balance, Lord Carrington therefore believes that we should now recognise the new government.

Yours ever,
Stephen
J S Wall

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FILE

VUB
Nicaragua

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 July 1979

BF 10.8.79

Nicaragua: Recognition

Thank you for your letter of 26 July, in which you described the present political situation in Nicaragua and conveyed the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's recommendation that we should now recognise the new provisional government of national reconstruction.

The Prime Minister has seen your letter. She believes that the U.K. should not rush into recognition of the new Nicaraguan Government, particularly as we are in the process of reviewing our criteria for recognition in circumstances such as this. The Prime Minister notes that France, the F.R.G., Italy and Denmark intend to recognise and/or "establish contact" with the new regime in the near future: the Prime Minister would like to know whether it would be possible for the U.K. to "establish contact" with the new government rather than accord it recognition at this stage.

I should be grateful for advice.

B. G. CARTLEDGE

J. S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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