

FOLUS 033/31

OO LUSAKA

GPS 280

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM F C O 311750Z JUL 79  
TO IMMEDIATE LUSAKA  
TELNO 564 OF 31 JULY

*PM: -OK-*

*John  
K  
Gunter*

FOR WALL

FOLLOWING FOR SECRETARY OF STATE FROM PARSONS.

NICARAGUA.

1. CARTLEDGE'S LETTER OF 28 JULY TO WALL QUOTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S BELIEF THAT WE SHOULD NOT RUSH INTO RECOGNITION OF THE NEW NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY AS WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING OUR CRITERIA, AND ASKED FOR ADVICE ON WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE UK TO "ESTABLISH CONTACT" RATHER THAN AFFORD RECOGNITION AT THIS STAGE.
2. ESTABLISHING FORMAL CONTACT IS IN FACT THE NORMAL WAY OF AFFORDING RECOGNITION ACCORDING TO OUR PRACTICE AND TO THAT OF OUR PARTNERS WHO RECOGNISE COUNTRIES RATHER THAN GOVERNMENTS. WE COULD NOT THEREFORE DO THE ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER.  
WE DID IN FACT HAVE AN INFORMAL CONTACT AT A VERY EARLY STAGE WITH NEW GOVT ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS DID NOT CONSTITUTE RECOGNITION, AS WE DID IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE RECENT COUP IN GHANA. BUT, AT THIS STAGE, WE COULD NOT EXPECT THE NICARAGUANS TO CONTINUE CONTACT ON THIS BASIS.
3. OUR PROPOSAL IS TO ESTABLISH CONTACT BY SENDING THE FIRST SECRETARY IN COSTA RICA (WHO IS ACCREDITED IN MANAGUA AS CHARGE) TO NICARAGUA TO EXPRESS OUR WISH FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS. NEWS DEPARTMENT WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THIS AS RECOGNITION IF ASKED.
4. EVEN IF OUR CURRENT REVIEW COMES UP WITH A RECOMMENDATION FOR A MODIFICATION IN OUR APPROACH TO RECOGNITION, THIS WOULD NOT AFFECT THE PRESENT CASE.
5. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE SHOULD GO AHEAD NOW. OUR EEC PARTNERS AS WELL AS THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA HAVE ALL RECOGNISED. FURTHER DELAY ON OUR PART CARRIES A RISK OF ACCUSATION EITHER THAT WE ACTIVELY DISAPPROVE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT (WHICH HAS MET OUR CRITERIA) AND/OR THAT WE ARE HANKERING AFTER SAMOZA. AS I SEE IT, WE ONLY STAND TO LOSE BY FURTHER DELAY.

CARRINGTON.

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