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cc 720  
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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 April 1983

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 53/83

Yours sincerely,

Thank you for your letter of 9 April, forwarded to me by your Ambassador in London, covering the views of the Nicaraguan Government on the situation in Central America.

I was glad to be informed of the position of your Government. You will already be aware of our concern about increasing tensions in Central America. We welcome any constructive moves that might help to bring about a reduction of that tension.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Barber

His Excellency Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra

J



File

21

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

Thank you for your letter of 13 April to the Prime Minister enclosing a letter dated 9 April from His Excellency Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, the Co-ordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the enclosed reply delivered.

A. J. COLES

His Excellency Senor Licenciado Francisco  
d'Escoto



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 April, 1983

*Type letter pl.*

*A.S.C. 25/4.*

*Dear John,*

Nicaragua

I am sorry that we have not replied before now to your letter of 14 April, about the letter of 9 April from the Co-ordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta for the National Reconstruction.

// I enclose a draft reply, together with a draft letter from you to the Nicaraguan Ambassador.

We do not think the Prime Minister should reply in detail to Comandante Ortega.

*Yours ever*

*for Holmes*  
(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO: His Excellency Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra  
 Member of the National Directorate of the Frente Sandinista of National Liberation and Co-ordinator of the Junta for the National Reconstruction of the Republic of Nicaragua

Your Reference

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:

Thank you for your letter of 9 April, forwarded to me by your Ambassador in London, covering the views of the Nicaraguan Government on the situation in Central America.

I was glad to be made aware of the position of your Government. You will already be aware of our concern about increasing tensions in Central America. We welcome any constructive moves that might help to bring about a reduction of that tension.

*AR 25/4*

Enclosures—flag(s).....

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: PS/No 10

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO: His Excellency  
 Senor Licenciado Francisco d'Escoto  
 Embassy of Nicaragua  
 8 Gloucester Road  
 LONDON SW7 4PP

Your Reference

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:

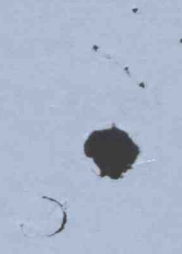
Thank you for your letter of 13 April to the Prime Minister enclosing a letter dated 9 April from His Excellency Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra the Co-ordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the enclosed reply delivered.

*MR 29/4*

Enclosures—flag(s).....

Nicaragua,  
July 79  
Relations



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14 April 1983

Nicaragua

BF | I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. Ortega, together with a translation. I should be grateful for a draft reply in due course.

JOHN COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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cc MASTRE  
OPS.



EMBAJADA DE NICARAGUA  
GRAN BRETAÑA

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T47/83

April 13, 1983

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to forward the enclosed letter, which in view of the urgency has arrived via the Embassy telex, from His Excellency Mr. Daniel Ortega, Member of the National Directorate of the Frente Sandinista of National Liberation and Co-ordinator of the Junta of Government of National Reconstruction.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



*Francisco d'Escoto*

Francisco d'Escoto  
Ambassador

The Right Honourable  
Margaret Thatcher, MP  
10 Downing Street  
London SW 1

Annex:





EMBAJADA DE NICARAGUA  
GRAN BRETAÑA

Managua, Nicaragua Abril 9, 1983

Señora Primer Ministro y amiga,

Tengo el honor de dirigirme a Vuestra Excelencia en la oportunidad de hacer de su conocimiento la posición del Gobierno de Nicaragua sobre la grave crisis que atraviesa el área centroamericana y nuestro país en las actuales circunstancias.

Desde el triunfo de la Revolución Sandinista, el Gobierno Revolucionario hizo de la Paz el principio rector de toda su política exterior e interior. Hemos propuesto y hemos apoyado todas las iniciativas serias en ese sentido. Recientemente, a raíz de la última convocatoria por Nicaragua del Consejo de Seguridad, para que ese magno órgano conociera de la invasión de nuestro país por fuerzas somocistas y de la amenaza real de una agresión extranjera, nos pronunciamos nuevamente por el dialogo con los Gobiernos de Honduras y de Estados Unidos y reiteramos el apoyo a la iniciativa de Paz que presentaran, en Contadora, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia y Panama.

Hace pocos días, el Gobierno de Honduras presento ante la Organización de Estados Americanos un proyecto de resolución sobre Centroamerica, auspiciado y promovido por el Gobierno Norteamericano, que resulta absolutamente inadmisibile para Nicaragua.

La Honorable  
Primer Ministro  
Margaret Thatcher, MP

...2



EMBAJADA DE NICARAGUA  
GRAN BRETAÑA

Managua, Nicaragua Abril 9, 1983

2/

El carácter de dicho proyecto, parcial, incompleto y totalmente ajeno a las verdaderas causas de la crisis centroamericana, sólo favorece los designios intervencionistas de la Administración Reagan, y abre puerta a un conflicto mayor y general en el área. En este sentido, Nicaragua sigue considerando que el diálogo bilateral, dentro del espíritu de Contadora, es el adecuado por ser éste, un esfuerzo serio para encontrar una solución a los problemas que afronta la región.

Nicaragua, con ello, reafirma su posición de mantener abiertas las puertas al diálogo y a la negociación. Sin embargo, todo esfuerzo por alcanzar una solución tiene ahora requisitos irrenunciables, la retirada incondicional de las fuerzas contrarrevolucionarias somocistas que han invadido Nicaragua, con el apoyo y la asistencia de los Estados Unidos, y el cese inmediato de los ataques fronterizos al territorio nacional que efectúan las bandas contrarrevolucionarias y el Ejército Hondureño.

La actitud asumida por los Gobiernos de Honduras, y Estados Unidos en relación a Nicaragua y otros países del área, fomentando la violencia, el intervencionismo y el crimen, entorpece de forma sistemática todo esfuerzo serio para obtener una disminución de las tensiones.

La Honorable  
Primer Ministro  
Margaret Thatcher, MP

...3/



EMBAJADA DE NICARAGUA  
GRAN BRETAÑA

Managua, Nicaragua Abril 9, 1983

3/

Esa política está llevando al agotamiento acelerado de las posibilidades reales de llegar a una solución negociada de la problemática centroamericana. La grave responsabilidad de evitar la generalización de un conflicto requiere del esfuerzo de todos, un esfuerzo dirigido, fundamentalmente, a impedir que continúe desarrollándose y acrecentándose la política agresiva norteamericana hacia la región que, en contra de la voluntad de nuestros pueblos y al margen de todo derecho, pretende imponer una solución militar que restablezca la dominación extranjera, preserve las caducas estructuras de explotación y nos conduce al subdesarrollo, la miseria y la esclavitud.

Sea propicia la oportunidad, para reiterarle las muestras de mi más sincera consideración y estima.

firma ( )

Daniel Ortega Saavedra  
Miembro de la  
Dirección Nacional  
F.S.L.N.  
Coordinador de la Junta de Gobierno  
De Reconstrucción Nacional

La Honorable  
Primer Ministro  
Margaret Thatcher, MP  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

(Letter transcribed from telex by Nicaraguan Embassy in London)

Managua  
Nicaragua

9 April 1983

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to inform you of the Nicaraguan Government's position with regard to the grave crisis affecting the Central American region and this country at present.

Since the victorious conclusion of the Sandinista Revolution, the Revolutionary Government has made Peace the guiding principle of its whole policy, both at home and abroad. We have put forward and supported all kinds of genuine initiatives in that direction. Recently, following the latest request by Nicaragua to the Security Council, asking it to deal with the invasion of our country by Somozan forces and with the very real threat of external aggression, we again declared ourselves in favour of dialogue with the Governments of Honduras and the United States and reiterated our support for the peace initiative launched at Contadora by Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama.

A few days ago the Government of Honduras put before the Organisation of American States a draft resolution on Central America, sponsored and promoted by the US Government, which is absolutely unacceptable to Nicaragua.

The nature of that draft text, which is biased, incomplete and wholly unrelated to the real causes of the Central American crisis, can only favour the interventionist plans of the Reagan Administration and opens the door to a major and general conflict in the area. In this context Nicaragua still considers that bilateral dialogue in the spirit of Contadora is the appropriate course, since this would constitute a genuine attempt to find a solution to the problems with which the region has to contend.

Nicaragua thereby reaffirms its position of keeping open the doors to dialogue and negotiation. However, for any attempt to achieve a solution there are now indispensable prerequisites: unconditional withdrawal of the Somozan counter-revolutionary forces which have invaded Nicaragua, with the support and assistance of the United States, and immediate cessation of the cross-border attacks on the national territory carried out by counter-revolutionary bands and the Honduran army.

The attitude taken by the Governments of Honduras and the United States in relation to Nicaragua and other countries in the area, encouraging violence, interventionism and crime, systematically obstructs any genuine attempt to secure a reduction in tensions. This policy is leading to the rapid exhaustion of real possibilities of arriving at a negotiated solution of Central American problems. The serious duty of preventing a conflict from becoming generalised calls for an effort by all concerned, directed basically to preventing further development and intensification of the aggressive American policy in relation to the region which, against the will of our peoples and by wholly unlawful means (?), seeks to impose a military solution that will reestablish foreign domination, preserve the outdated structures of exploitation and lead us to underdevelopment, poverty and servitude.

Yours etc.

(sgd) Daniel Ortega Saavedra  
Member of the National Directorate  
F S N L  
Coordination of the Council of Government of National Reconstruction.