

Subject

STS 124/85

cc Master  
of S

Managua, 31 January 1985  
FOR PEACE, ALL AGAINST AGGRESSION.

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T150/85

Dear Prime Minister,

On the occasion of the visit to your country of the Vice-President of Nicaragua, Dr Sergio Ramírez Mercado, I should like to send you the best wishes of our People and Government and express our deep satisfaction that this first high-level meeting between our two States is taking place.

For Nicaragua, this visit is of special importance since it enables us to initiate significant dialogue between our two nations which we consider to be undoubtedly important for the improvement of relations between Nicaragua and the United Kingdom and to be a valuable opportunity to contribute to finding peaceful solutions to the serious problems confronting the Central American peoples.

Our Government considers this to be a favourable opportunity to re-affirm what was stated by the representatives of both Governments in the Joint Communiqué drawn up by the Conference of Ministers of External Relations of the European Communities, the Contadora Group, Central America, Spain and Portugal, in particular as regards supporting "the peace initiatives arising from the Contadora process" and our conviction that "the problems of this region cannot be resolved by force of arms but only through political solutions emanating from the region itself."<sup>\*</sup>

Recent events in the region, which have been characterised by the systematic obstruction of dialogue and negotiation mechanisms by the Government of the United States, have seriously jeopardised the prospects of effectively reestablishing peace and harmony between the Central American nations.

To Her Excellency  
MARGARET THATCHER  
Prime Minister of the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain  
LONDON

<sup>\*</sup> Translator's note: the passages in quotation marks are our own translation.

In April 1984, Nicaragua appeared before the International Court of Justice in a new attempt to get the Government of the United States to behave in accordance with international law. Nine months afterwards, at the time when the Court was declared competent and accepted Nicaragua's request, the United States announced its decision to withdraw from the legal proceedings, thereby establishing a serious historical precedent which directly affects the international legal system and consequently international peace and security.

At the same time, the Government of the United States has increased pressure on the Central American countries, particularly Costa Rica and El Salvador, who have publicly announced their decision not to attend the next meeting of Ambassadors called by Contadora for 14 and 15 February in an attempt to hinder and bring about the failure of that forum of dialogue and negotiation.

This critical situation for regional peace has been made perilously worse by the US Administration's request to Congress for the approval of new budget allocations for the continuance of so-called "covert operations" against Nicaragua which the Government of the United States has been carrying on for over 4 years, openly violating the fundamental principles of international law which ensure respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nicaragua, rights which were protected by the International Court of Justice in its Ordinance of 10 May last.

In contrast to this policy, the Government of Nicaragua has reaffirmed its willingness to sign the Contadora Act of 7 September immediately without amendments; it has announced its decision to attend the meeting of 14 and 15 February convened by Contadora; at the same time it has called upon the United States to maintain frank dialogue with Manzanillo and will continue the legal proceedings before the International Court of Justice.

In the light of these dramatic events, the Government of Nicaragua considers that the countries of Europe can make a significant contribution to the reestablishment of peace in Central America, as was indicated in the Joint Communiqué of the Ministerial Meeting held in San José. Both our nations share a valuable cultural heritage and a common allegiance to the ideals and values embodied in the United Nations Charter.

In view of this common understanding, which includes those high principles that promote solidarity between nations and provide a stimulus to the establishment of a just and lasting peace with the whole world, the Government of Nicaragua trusts that you will be able to promote initiatives aimed at reestablishing existing mechanisms of dialogue and at persuading the Government of the United States of the necessity of opening sincere dialogue with Nicaragua devoid of any form of force or pressure, including the request made to Congress for budget allocations for the purpose of attacking our country, so as to enable the peoples of Central America to live in brotherly harmony within a framework of strict observance of the international legal system, the preservation of which is imperative for world peace.

Trusting once again that we will make a common effort on behalf of observance of the international legal system, I should like to renew to you the appreciation and esteem of our People and Government.

Yours etc.

(signed)

Daniel Ortega Saavedra.