



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 March 1985

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 42/85

cc MASTER
OPS

Dear President,

Thank you for your letter of 31 January, which reached me on 18 February.

I was able to discuss the subjects covered in your letter with Senor Ramirez on 8 February. I expressed to him my serious concern about the substantial build-up of arms, troops and foreign military advisers in your country and about your Government's support for attempts to destabilise democratic governments elsewhere in Central America. I made clear that Britain's future relations with Nicaragua would be determined by progress towards establishing genuine democracy in your country, by the scaling down of armaments and by non-intervention in the internal affairs of neighbouring countries.

The British Government, along with our European Community partners, remain convinced that the Contadora process presents the best opportunity to achieve a peaceful solution to the crisis in the region. We hope that the efforts being made to reach agreement on the final text of the Contadora Act with proper procedures for its implementation and verification will lead to an early agreement.

JR

We have just received your Government's latest proposals for peace in Central America. We shall of course be looking carefully at them. As I have made clear, the most urgent need is for practical steps to implement the Contadora principles.

Yours sincerely

Ronald Reagan

His Excellency Senor Daniel Ortega

Cafe



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 March 1985

Dear Charles,

Nicaragua

Thank you for your letter of 18 February.

/ I enclose a translation of President Ortega's letter dated 31 January to the Prime Minister. It covers much the same ground as Vice-President Ramirez did at his recent meeting with the Prime Minister and seems to have been written for handing over at that call.

In replying, the Prime Minister may wish to take the opportunity to reiterate directly to President Ortega the main points she made in her conversation with Vice President Ramirez.

/ I enclose a draft reply. This refers to the latest
/ Nicaraguan peace proposals, a copy of which they have just sent to us. A translation of these is also enclosed.

Ye ew
Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret

His Excellency
Senor Daniel Ortega
President of the Republic of
Nicaragua

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Secret

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PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

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CAVEAT.....

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Enclosures—flag(s).....

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CDJ.

NICARAGUAN EMBASSY
GREAT BRITAIN

No. 006/85

The Embassy of the Republic of Nicaragua in Great Britain presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Her Britannic Majesty and would like to communicate the full text of the statement made on 26 February 1985 by His Excellency Daniel Ortega Saavedra, President of the Republic of Nicaragua :

"The International Community has learned with deep concern of the latest statements by the US President, in which he again openly declared his decision to persist in his hostile policy towards Nicaragua by his insistence that the US Congress provide more funds for the mercenary forces attacking our country daily. And what is even worse is that the President of the USA has publicly expressed his desire to overthrow the democratic Government which was legitimately elected at the polls by the Nicaraguan people.

Moreover, it is already known that the Government of President Reagan unilaterally broke off the talks with Nicaragua that were being held in Manzanillo, Mexico. He blocked the development of the Contadora process by his decision not to accept the Act for peace and cooperation put forward by Contadora in September last year and by refusing in addition to recognise the competence of the International Court of Justice in matters concerning Central America.

This recent set of circumstances, which has worsened the tension in the region, and the campaign of slander and distortion of all kinds with regard to the Nicaraguan Government and its policy, forces me to make this statement today, which is addressed to governments, parliaments, international organisations and peoples of the world:

1. Nicaragua is not part of any bloc and does not have military alliances with anybody. Ours is a non-aligned country struggling against backwardness. We are bent on reconstructing the country and, in making this effort, we are eager to foster relations of

friendship, solidarity, mutual respect and cooperation with all the governments and peoples of the world who, out of mutual interest and respect, wish to establish and develop relations with our country.

2. It is a principle of our foreign policy, as well as a profound belief of the Government of Nicaragua, that revolutions - like the one that put an end to the Nicaraguan people's long process of struggle against the Somoza dictatorship and for national sovereignty - cannot and must not be exported. Each nation, each people - in accordance with their needs, history and conditions - chooses its own destiny and irrevocably shapes its own history.

3. Accordingly, Central American Governments must not be deceived into believing that our country represents a threat to them. Nicaragua is not and never will be an aggressor country and resolutely favours looking for a joint solution to the economic and political crisis based on the common interests of the Central American peoples, in order to achieve stability, peace and coexistence among our countries.

4. Nicaragua has never hidden its conviction and ongoing concern that the changes required by the Central American peoples, according to each country's particular circumstances, should be carried out peacefully, thus sparing these people the painful consequences of violence. To this end, our Government is continuing to search for a negotiated political solution to the conflict in El Salvador.

5. A principle and objective of our foreign policy is for Central America and the other countries on the continent to promote a political pluralism that is manifested in the form of unlimited respect for the modalities of the political and economic self-determination of each State. Only respect for diversity is consistent with respect for the freedom of peoples.

6. The Nicaraguan Government perseveres with and defends the Sandinista plan for a mixed economy, for genuine non-alignment and for political democracy by rescuing the best values of our representative democracy.

A principle of our policy is to guarantee and strengthen the mixed economy, the existence of a private sector and a state-owned sector, which - combined with different forms of cooperative associations - represent the balanced economic structure which serves as a basis for the real political pluralism that is defended by the Sandinista plan.

7. Nicaragua considers that it has a right to establish and develop relations of friendship with the people of the USA as well as with all peoples of the world. Accordingly, Nicaragua is striving to adopt initiatives with the present Government of that country and will continue to do so with future Governments until normal relations are achieved between the USA and Nicaragua.

8. Nicaragua's main goal is the priority development of its relations with Latin America - a domaine irrevocably and historically associated with our country and nation. Thus, Nicaragua's acceptance of the Contadora Act was and is an expression of our full identification with the Latin American principles that were advocated by the Contadora group countries. These principles were stated in that document and are compatible and fully in accordance with the principles of the Nicaraguan state.

9. Nicaragua, as a genuine non-aligned nation, is developing relations of friendship and co-operation with European, African and Asian countries, as well as with the socialist states. Nicaragua attaches particular interest and importance to its relations with western Europe. A fundamental goal of our foreign policy is the promotion and encouragement of greater European cooperation and participation in Central America in the interest of peace and our peoples' social and economic progress and in order to promote an effective diversity of international relations between our countries.

10. The Nicaraguan Government reaffirms that our relations of friendship and growing cooperation with the socialist States - particularly with the Soviet Union and Cuba - are an expression of Nicaragua's genuine non-alignment. Respectful friendship with all

States is fully in accordance with our independence, sovereignty and self-determination.

11. In the face of the US Government's pretexts and various unscrupulous statements regarding its security, Nicaragua reaffirms once more that it is not, and never will be a military base for any foreign country or power.

12. Nicaragua, as a third world and non-aligned country, identifies fully with and will always maintain its political and moral solidarity with the just struggles of the African, Asian and Latin American peoples who are fighting against backwardness to achieve sovereignty, freedom and national independence.

13. The Nicaraguan Government is deeply convinced, along with the rulers, political leaders and peoples of the world, that, in view of the serious deterioration of the international situation in this nuclear age, nothing is more urgent and fundamental than the defence of peace and international detente.

Nicaragua, which has never ceased to present proposals - bilaterally at the various negotiating tables, and international forums - for a peaceful solution to the problems which prevail in the turbulent Central American region, has decided immediately to adopt unilateral initiatives and decisions that, in full accordance with Nicaragua's decision to accept, without modification, the Act for peace and cooperation proposed by the Contadora group, immediately contribute to revitalising and strengthening this peace-seeking negotiation process.

The Nicaraguan Government trusts that its initiatives will encourage the political will of Central American Governments to accept the Contadora group's proposals. In addition, we hope this will encourage the US Government to return to the Manzanillo talks and to stop asking the US Congress for funds, ceasing its hostile policy towards Nicaragua, a policy which violates the norms and principles of international co-existence.

Prompted by the grave regional situation, which demands that the governments involved adopt a responsible, mature and flexible attitude that favours detente, we have agreed:

1. as a first step towards fulfilling the goals proposed by Contadora and supported by Nicaragua regarding the complete withdrawal of foreign military advisers from the Central American area - that my Government will do without the cooperation given by 100 Cuban military instructors; the first 50 instructors will return to Cuba during May 1985.
2. Within the same context of Contadora, we have decided to declare an indefinite moratorium on the purchase of new weapons systems and the interceptor aircraft required to complete the country's present anti-aircraft system.

In addition, and with the intention of eliminating the excuses and argument based on matters that are secondary and irrelevant to the development of the normal Contadora process and which were used to set up obstacles to the initiative, Nicaragua will make known to the Contadora group its decision to take immediate practical steps to overcome the obstacle used as a pretext for cancelling the 14th February meeting.

We also publicly state that, with the intention of arriving at a better understanding with the US Congress, people and Government regarding the false arguments about the alleged militarisation of Nicaragua, I have decided to issue an invitation to US Congress leaders to appoint a Congress delegation to visit our country - if deemed appropriate - and to evaluate on the spot the defensive nature of our country's armed forces and defence systems.

The Nicaraguan Government is firmly convinced that the road to peace will be found despite all intransigent attitudes, and that the peoples and governments of the world will raise their voices demanding respect for the principles of international law and the Nicaraguan people's right to live in peace.

Nicaragua intends to present these proposals to the Heads of State and Governments who will gather in Uruguay for Dr Julio Maria Sanguinetti's presidential inauguration. Undoubtedly, the international community will support them in the interests of regional peace.

— —
/stamp/ Daniel Ortega Saavedra
President

London, 1 March 1985.

NICARAGUA: Des
July 79

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 February 1985

I enclose a letter to the Prime Minister from President Ortega of Nicaragua, delivered to Downing Street today.

I should be grateful for a translation and a draft reply - if appropriate

BF||

(CHARLES POWELL)

P.F. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

A handwritten signature, possibly 'R', in the bottom right corner of the page.



Managua, 31 de Enero 1985
POR LA PAZ, TODOS CONTRA LA AGRESION

Estimada Primer Ministro:

En ocasión de la visita a su país del Vice-Presidente de Nicaragua, Doctor - Sergio Ramírez Mercado, deseo expresarle el saludo cordial de nuestro Pueblo y Gobierno así como nuestra profunda satisfacción por la realización de este primer encuentro de alto nivel entre ambos Estados.

Para Nicaragua, esta visita reviste especial importancia por cuanto, a través de ella, damos inicio a un diálogo significativo entre ambas naciones, que no dudamos en calificar como importante para el fortalecimiento de los vínculos que unen a Nicaragua y el Reino Unido y como una valiosa oportunidad para contribuir en la búsqueda de soluciones pacíficas a los graves problemas que confrontan los pueblos centroamericanos.

Nuestro Gobierno estima propicia esta oportunidad para reafirmar lo expresado por los Representantes de ambos Gobiernos en el Comunicado Conjunto elaborado por la Conferencia de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores de las Comunidades - Europeas, el Grupo de Contadora, Centroamérica, España y Portugal. En especial, lo relativo a el apoyo "a las medidas de pacificación que se deriven del proceso de Contadora" y nuestra convicción de que "los problemas de esta región - no pueden resolverse por la fuerza de las armas sino por medio de soluciones - políticas que surjan de la región misma."

Los recientes acontecimientos en la región, caracterizados por la obstrucción sistemática de los mecanismos de diálogo y negociación por parte del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, han venido a alejar seriamente las posibilidades de restablecer efectivamente la paz y la convivencia entre las naciones centroamericanas.

A Su Excelencia
MARGARET TATCHER
Primer Ministro del
Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña
LONDRES.



A Su Excelencia
MARGARET TATCHER
Londres
Página 2

En abril de 1984, Nicaragua compareció ante la Corte Internacional de Justicia en un nuevo esfuerzo por conseguir que el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos ajustase su conducta al Derecho Internacional. Nueve meses después, en los momentos en que la Corte se declaraba competente y admitía la demanda de Nicaragua, los Estados Unidos anunciaron su decisión de retirarse de los procedimientos judiciales, constituyéndose así un grave precedente histórico que afecta directamente el ordenamiento jurídico internacional y por consiguiente la paz y la seguridad internacionales.

Paralelamente, el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos ha venido incrementando las presiones sobre los países centroamericanos, particularmente sobre Costa Rica y El Salvador, quienes han llegado a anunciar públicamente su decisión de no asistir a la próxima reunión de Embajadores convocada por Contadora para el 14 y 15 de Febrero, en un esfuerzo dirigido a obstaculizar y hacer fracasar esa instancia de diálogo y negociación.

Esta situación crítica para la paz regional se ve agravada peligrosamente por la petición de la Administración norteamericana dirigida a conseguir la aprobación del Congreso de nuevas partidas presupuestarias para continuar las llamadas "operaciones encubiertas" contra Nicaragua que desde hace más de 4 años -- mantiene el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, en abierta violación de las normas fundamentales del Derecho Internacional que aseguran el respeto a la soberanía e integridad territorial de Nicaragua, derechos éstos que fueron tutelados por la propia Corte Internacional de Justicia en su Ordenanza del 10 de mayo pasado.

En contraposición a esta política, el Gobierno de Nicaragua ha reiterado su disposición de firmar de inmediato y sin modificaciones el Acta de Contadora del 7 de septiembre; ha anunciado su decisión de asistir a la reunión del 14 y 15 de febrero convocada por Contadora; al tiempo que ha incitado a los Estados Unidos a proseguir con franqueza el diálogo con Manzanillo y continuará los procedimientos judiciales ante la Corte Internacional de Justicia.

Ante estas dramáticas circunstancias, el Gobierno de Nicaragua considera que -- los países de Europa pueden contribuir significativamente en el restablecimiento de la paz en Centroamérica, tal como fuera señalado en el Comunicado Conjunto de la Reunión Ministerial celebrada en San José, ambas naciones compartimos un valioso patrimonio cultural y una vinculación común a los ideales y valores incorporados en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas.



EAGLE-A

TROJAN BOND

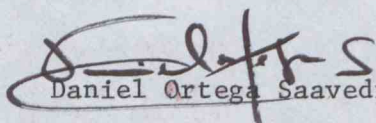
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A Su Excelencia
MARGARET TATCHER
Londres
Página 3

En el marco de esa conciencia común, de la cual forman parte aquellos altos - principios que promueven la solidaridad entre las naciones e impulsan a con-- tribuir al establecimiento de una paz justa y duradera con todo el mundo, el - Gobierno de Nicaragua tiene la confianza de que Usted podrá adelantar inicia- tivas dirigidas a restablecer los mecanismos de diálogo existentes y a persua- dir al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos sobre la necesidad de avocarse a un diá- logo sincero con Nicaragua, ajeno a cualquier medida de fuerza o presión, in- cluyendo la solicitud de partidas presupuestarias al Congreso dirigidas a agre- dir a nuestro país, que posibilite a los pueblos centroamericanos la conviven- cia fraterna en un régimen de respeto estricto al Ordenamiento Jurídico Inter- nacional, cuya preservación es imperativo para la paz mundial.

Al reiterarle nuestra confianza en que mantendremos un esfuerzo común en favor del respeto al Ordenamiento Jurídico Internacional y la paz, le renuevo el a- precio y estima de nuestro Pueblo y Gobierno.

Fraternalmente,


Daniel Ortega Saavedra.

