



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

9 July 1986

SUBJECT CC MASTER
OPS

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T128/86

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your message of 3 July.

Adherence to the rules of international law is fundamental to British foreign policy; so too is support for peaceful settlement of disputes between states. Actions such as Nicaragua's support for irregular groups operating against the governments of neighbouring countries and the build up of Nicaragua's Armed Forces and armaments have the effect of increasing instability rather than promoting peaceful co-operation. Moreover, the recent measures taken by the Nicaraguan Government further to restrict civil liberties are a cause for great concern.

Along with our partners in the European Community, Britain has stated that we do not believe that the problems of Central America can be resolved by force. We support a comprehensive negotiated settlement on the basis of the Contadora principles. Implementation and adequate verification of such a settlement would be the best means of re-establishing peace in Central America and guaranteeing the security of all the countries of the region.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

dg

His Excellency Senor Daniel Ortega

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ce/pc



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 July 1986

Dear Charles

Nicaragua

At today's meeting of the Latin American Working Group on European Political Cooperation, several Partners reported that their Heads of Government had received letters from President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua in identical terms to that addressed to the Prime Minister (to which Mrs Thatcher replied on 9 July).

Partners expressed an interest in seeing the terms of the Prime Minister's reply before considering their own, and it is clear there is particular interest in view of our Presidency in this exchange.

We judge that it would be helpful to make our response available to partners on this occasion: may we do so?

John - 5/10

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 July 1986

NICARAGUA

Thank you for your letter of 10 July asking whether the Prime Minister's reply to President Ortega can be shown to our colleagues in Political Co-operation.

I agree that we should do so and enclose a copy of the reply as it issued.

Charles Powell

Robert Culshaw, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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ccPC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 July 1986

Dear Chairman

Nicaragua

I enclose a letter from President Ortega of Nicaragua addressed to the Prime Minister which we have been asked to forward, together with a translation and a draft reply.

President Ortega's letter refers to the Judgement by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that certain actions by the US in support of the 'Contras' are contrary to international law and ^{refers also} to the decision by the United States Congress to provide \$110m to support the 'Contras'. He appeals to the British Government to defend the international legal order and to urge the US to end its aggression against Nicaragua and comply with the Judgement of the ICJ.

The draft reply reaffirms HM Government's commitment to international law but points out that Nicaragua's actions, such as interference in neighbouring states and the arms build up are hardly consistent with Nicaragua's claimed support for peaceful co-existence. Given the International Court's judgement that certain US actions against Nicaragua are illegal it would not seem appropriate in this instance to contest President Ortega's assertion to this effect. The draft reaffirms HMG's policy.

Yours ever

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

THE PRIME MINISTER

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

To i/hel
an

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret

HE Sr Daniel Ortega
President of Nicaragua

Secret

Copies to:

Confidential

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Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Dear Mr President

CAVEAT.....

Thank you for your message of 3 July.

Adherence to the rules of international law is fundamental to British foreign policy; so too is support for peaceful settlement of disputes between states. ~~But civilised co-existence and a durable peace demand positive co-operation by all States.~~ Actions such as Nicaragua's support for irregular groups operating against the governments of neighbouring countries and the build up of Nicaragua's Armed Forces and armaments have the effect of increasing instability rather than promoting peaceful co-operation. Moreover, the recent measures taken by the Nicaraguan Government further to restrict civil liberties are a ~~matter~~ ^{cause} for ^{great} concern.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

~~The British Government's policy is clear.~~ Along with our partners in the European Community, ^{Britain} ~~we~~ have ^{has} stated that we do not believe that the problems of

/Central America



Central America can be resolved by force. We support a comprehensive negotiated settlement on the basis of the Contadora principles. Implementation and adequate verification of such a settlement would be the best means of re-establishing peace in Central America and guaranteeing the security of all the countries of the region.

CB.

SUBJECT CC MASTER
OPS

NICARAGUAN EMBASSY

GREAT BRITAIN

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T122A/86

Dear Prime Minister and Friend

Convinced that our countries share a common attachment to the principles and rules enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and a common faith in the world representativity of the International Court of Justice, and convinced of the deep feeling that you have for peaceful coexistence among nations, I should like to convey to you the following reflections:

As you know, the Government of the United States, in an act of unforeseeable gravity, has once again involved the US Congress in its policy of force against Nicaragua. In this connection, the House of Representatives has approved one hundred and ten million dollars for the irregular groups created by the US Government, and has acceded to the request to send US military advisers to interfere in the war against Nicaragua.

In an historic act, the International Court of Justice has declared itself clearly and categorically against the policy of force and threat which the US Government has been pursuing against Nicaragua.

This judgment synthesises the most noble aspirations of the international community, expressed in defence of an international legal order based on recourse to peaceful means of settling disputes: the outlawing of the threat and use of force and adherence to the principles of non-intervention, equality among nations and respect for the sovereignty of States. It would be difficult to imagine a sharper contradiction than that between the policy of the American Government and the judgment of the world's supreme judicial body.

The decision of the US Congress has also come about at a time when

Nicaragua had expressed its readiness to take specific steps towards peace, within the framework of the plans formulated by the Contadora States at the last joint meeting of Foreign Ministers.

The approval of more funds for the mercenaries clearly constitutes a direct attempt to strike at and destroy the peace move by the Contadora Group and its support group, thereby repudiating the legitimate aspirations and interests of Latin America, represented by this negotiating effort.

In this connection, this decision openly runs counter to the Caraballeda Message, the Punta del Este Communiqué and the recently issued Panama Message, in which it is confirmed that "it is imperative that no power should give military and logistic support to the irregular forces".

This serious situation is making it necessary to reinforce defence mechanisms and undertake the strict application of the legal remedies at the disposal of the Nicaraguan State to preserve its sovereignty. At the very time when the Government of Nicaragua is ratifying its adherence to the principles of political pluralism, a mixed economy and non-alignment, it also wishes to emphasise its obligation to safeguard, within the framework of the law, the inalienable rights of the Nicaraguan people.

Accordingly, knowing the value that your country attaches to the principles governing relations among States, Nicaragua urgently requests your Government and the international community to give impetus to concrete actions in defence of the international legal order, for which purpose it is imperative that the Government of the United States should be urged, for the sake of civilised coexistence and peace, to call a halt to its war of aggression against Nicaragua and to comply with the judgment of the International Court of Justice.

* Translator's note: Own translation.

Nicaragua is confident that you will continue to be a firm defender of the cause of peace in our region.

Yours etc

Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London



EMBAJADA DE NICARAGUA
GRAN BRETAÑA

Apreciada Primer Ministro y Amiga:

En el convencimiento de que nuestros países comparten una vinculación común con los principios y normas consagrados en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y nuestra fe común en la representatividad mundial de la Corte Internacional de Justicia y del alto sentido que tiene para la convivencia pacífica entre las naciones, a continuación deseo transmitirle las siguientes consideraciones:

Como es de su conocimiento, el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, en un acto de imprevisible gravedad, ha comprometido nuevamente al Congreso Norteamericano con su política de fuerza contra Nicaragua. En tal sentido, la Cámara de Representantes ha aprobado ciento diez millones de dólares para los grupos irregulares que ha creado el Gobierno de ese país y accedió al pedido de involucrar directamente a Asesores Militares norteamericanos en la guerra contra Nicaragua.

En un hecho histórico, la Corte Internacional de Justicia se ha pronunciado clara y categóricamente en contra de la política de fuerza y amenaza que ha venido ejercitando el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos contra Nicaragua.

Esta sentencia, sintetiza las aspiraciones más nobles de la comunidad internacional, expresadas en la defensa de un orden jurídico internacional fundado en el recurso a los medios pacíficos de solución de controversias: la proscripción del uso y la amenaza del uso de la fuerza y el apego a los



EMBAJADA DE NICARAGUA
GRAN BRETAÑA

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principios de no intervención, igualdad entre las naciones y respeto a la soberanía de los Estados. Difícilmente podría concebirse una mayor contradicción entre la política del Gobierno norteamericano y la sentencia del máximo organismo judicial mundial.

La decisión del Congreso Norteamericano, también se produce en momentos en que Nicaragua había expresado su disposición de dar pasos concretos en favor de la paz, en el marco de los planteamientos formulados por Contadora durante la última reunión conjunta de Cancilleres.

La aprobación de nuevos fondos para los mercenarios, constituye claramente un esfuerzo directo por golpear y destruir la gestión de paz del Grupo de Contadora y de su instancia de apoyo, desconociéndose con ello las legítimas aspiraciones e intereses de América Latina, representadas en ese esfuerzo negociador.

En tal sentido, esta decisión confronta abiertamente el Mensaje de Caraballeda, el Comunicado de Punta del Este y el recientemente emitido Mensaje de Panamá, en el cual se ratifica que "es imperativo que ninguna potencia apoye militar y logísticamente a las fuerzas irregulares".

Esta grave situación viene a generar la exigencia de fortalecer los mecanismos de defensa y de proceder a la estricta aplicación de los recursos jurídicos con que cuenta el Estado nicaragüense para preservar su soberanía. Al propio tiempo que el



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GRAN BRETAÑA

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Gobierno de Nicaragua ratifica su apego a los principios del pluralismo político, economía mixta y no alineamiento, también desea subrayar su obligación de resguardar, dentro del marco de la ley los derechos inalienables del pueblo nicaragüense.

En este contexto y conociendo el valor que otorga su país a los principios que rigen las relaciones entre Estados, Nicaragua solicita urgentemente a su Gobierno y a la comunidad internacional el impulso de acciones concretas en defensa del orden jurídico internacional, para lo cual es imprescindible urgir al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos a que, en nombre de la convivencia civilizada y la paz, desista de su guerra de agresión contra Nicaragua y cumpla con la sentencia de la Corte Internacional de Justicia.

Nicaragua confía que la causa de la paz en nuestra región, continuara teniendo en usted un firme defensor,

Fraternalmente,

Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Primer Ministro
10 Downing Street
Londres.