



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 December 1981

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Primi Minister
Dear Michael,
Primi Minister 2/41

El Salvador: UN Third Committee Resolution

You should be aware of an awkward problem with which we have been faced by the tabling in the UNGA Third Committee - without consultation with us - of a draft Resolution on El Salvador by France, Mexico and others. This is expected to come to a vote/within the next two days.

at any time

I enclose a copy of the draft Resolution in its original form, together with UKMis New York telegrams 1376 and 1402 and outward telegrams of instructions to New York and Washington. The Americans intended to vote against the Resolution in its original form: and have expressed irritation at apparent European unwillingness to give their Central American policy the support which they expect. Following discussions in New York, the draft is expected to be softened: but it is not known whether the Americans would be prepared to abstain if satisfactory amendments were obtained.

Lord Carrington is naturally concerned to avoid friction over this Resolution with the US Government, whose sensitivity on Central American affairs is well known. Nevertheless if Britain, alone among the Ten, was to abstain on a Resolution so amended as to constitute a reasonable comment on El Salvador's performance, our action would be very difficult to defend domestically. Public (and media) concern about El Salvador shows no sign of diminishing. Lord Carrington has therefore taken the view that we should if necessary be prepared to part company with the Americans over the Resolution, but should do our best to ensure that our actions are properly understood in Washington. It of course remains our preferred option to abstain in the company of other European members (possibly the FRG and Italy), though there is no chance of a common abstention by the Ten. Our posts in New York and Washington have been instructed accordingly.

yours ever
Rodric Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
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General Assembly

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Thirty-sixth session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The situation of human rights and fundamental freedom in El Salvador

Algeria, Denmark, France, Greece, Ireland, Mexico, Netherlands,
Sweden and Yugoslavia: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the permanent validity of the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Conscious of its responsibility to promote and guarantee the maintenance of those principles and to contribute to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Reiterating once more that all Member States have an obligation to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil in this respect the obligations they have undertaken through the various international instruments in this field,

Recalling resolution 35/192 approved by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, which, among other things, expresses deep concern for violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in El Salvador, especially in view of the death of thousands of people and the climate of repression and insecurity which prevails in that country and deplores the assassinations, disappearances and other serious violations of human rights in El Salvador,

Reiterating the appeal made by the General Assembly in said resolution 35/192 for the cessation of violence and the re-establishment of full respect for human rights in El Salvador and for Governments of all States to refrain from supplying arms and lending other forms of military assistance in the current circumstances,

6 Bearing also in mind resolution 32 (XXXVII) of the Commission on Human Rights, approved by the Economic and Social Council in May, 1981, which notes the persistence of the climate of violence and insecurity which prevails in El Salvador,

7 Endorsing the appeal to the Salvadorean parties involved, made by the Commission on Human Rights in the said resolution 32 (XXXVII), to arrive at a peaceful settlement and put an end to violence in order to prevent further loss of lives and alleviate the suffering of the people of El Salvador,

8 Taking note of resolution 10 (XXXIV) adopted by the Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, which states that only respect for article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, will assure to the Salvadorean nation, through the participation of all its political forces, the full exercise of its fundamental rights in establishing a democratically elected government, but also notes that at the present time these conditions do not exist in El Salvador,

9 Having studied the Interim Report of the Special Representative for El Salvador, appointed by the Commission on Human Rights, contained in document A/36/608, which confirms the seriousness of the situation prevailing in El Salvador and, among other things, provides evidence on the general attitude of passiveness and inactivity of the present Salvadorean authorities with respect to the constant human rights violations in that country,

10 Noting that the situation in El Salvador, as clearly shown in the Interim Report of the Special Representative, has its root causes in internal political, economic and social factors,

1. Reiterates its deep concern for the situation prevailing in El Salvador and the suffering of the Salvadorean people;
2. Requests once more the Salvadorean parties involved to arrive at a negotiated political solution in order to establish, in an atmosphere free from intimidation and terror, a democratically elected government;
3. Deeply deplores all acts of violence and all grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and regrets in particular the persistence of a situation in which governmental paramilitary organizations and other armed groups continue to act with total contempt for the life, security and tranquillity of the civilian population;
4. Draws the attention of all parties concerned to the fact that the rules of international law, as contained in common article three of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, are applicable to armed conflicts not of an international character and requests the parties involved to apply a minimum standard of protection to the affected population;

5. Reiterates its appeal to all States to abstain from intervening in the internal situation in El Salvador and suspend all supplies of arms and any type of military support, so as to allow the political forces in that country to restore peace and security;

6. Affirms once more that it corresponds only to the Salvadorean people, to exercise its right to determine freely its political status and freely pursue its economic, social and cultural development and to establish the conditions and undertake the changes most adequate to its aspirations as a people and as a nation without external interference of any kind;

7. Urges the Government of El Salvador to adopt the necessary measures to ensure full respect of the human rights of its population in all their expressions, primarily by creating conditions which could lead to a political solution to the present crisis through the full participation of all representative political forces in that country;

8. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to thoroughly examine the situation in El Salvador in its thirty-eighth session, on the basis of the final report of the Special Representative;

9. Decides to maintain under consideration, during its thirty-seventh session, the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in El Salvador, in order to examine anew this situation in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council.
