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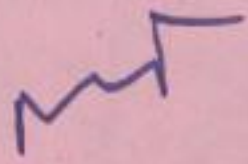
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TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 285 OF 16 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE TEGUCIGALPA AND PRIORITY SAN JOSE



OUR TELNO 70 TO KUALA LUMPUR, EL SALVADOR

1. I HAVE DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD ACCEPT THE SALVADOREAN GOVERNMENT'S INVITATION TO SEND OBSERVERS TO THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS.

2. AN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE BY WRITTEN ANSWERS TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS IN BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AT 1700 GMT ON WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY. THE TEXT OF THE ANSWERS WILL BE TELEGRAPHED SEPARATELY. YOU WILL SEE THAT I HAVE MADE OUR DECISION SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

3. I WISH TO LET SECRETARY HAIG KNOW IN CONFIDENCE IN ADVANCE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE ARRANGE TO DELIVER THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE IN MIFT TO HIM, IF POSSIBLE IN PERSON, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON THE MORNING (YOUR TIME) OF WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY.

4. IN DELIVERING THE MESSAGE YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO HAIG THAT WE SHALL, AS PROMISED IN MY MESSAGE, TAKE ACTION IN BONN, ROME BRUSSELS AND OTTAWA ONCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE TO ENSURE THAT THESE GOVERNMENTS HAVE AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE UK DECISION AND THE REASONS FOR WHICH IT WAS TAKEN. WE ARE ALSO PROPOSING TO TAKE ACTION IN SELECTED LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CAPITALS TO INFORM GOVERNMENTS OF OUR ACTION.

5. WE EXPECT CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC INTEREST AND CRITICISM HERE AS SOON AS THE NEWS BREAKS. NO DOUBT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HERE WILL BE REPORTING REACTIONS BUT YOU SHOULD LEAVE THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN NO DOUBT ABOUT THE DOMESTIC COST OF OUR SUPPORT IN THIS.

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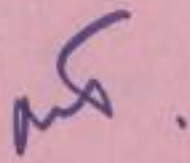
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TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 286 OF 16 FEBRUARY  
INFO IMMEDIATE TEGUCIGALPA  
PRIORITY SAN JOSE.



EL SALVADOR: MIPT

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM ME TO HAIG:  
BEGINS 'THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 6 FEBRUARY.

YOU WILL BE PLEASED TO LEARN THAT WE HAVE DECIDED TO SEND  
OBSERVERS TO THE SALVADOREAN ELECTIONS AS LONG AS WE CAN BE SURE  
ABOUT THEIR PERSONAL SECURITY. AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO THIS  
EFFECT WILL BE MADE TO PARLIAMENT AT 1700 LONDON TIME WEDNESDAY  
17 FEBRUARY. I AM SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT OUR DECISION  
MUST REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL THE ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE.

WE SHALL OF COURSE INFORM THE SALVADOREAN GOVERNMENT  
AND OUR EC PARTNERS ONCE PARLIAMENT HAS BEEN GIVEN THE NEWS.  
I INTEND TO INSTRUCT OUR EMBASSIES IN A NUMBER OF APPROPRIATE  
CAPITALS TO INFORM OTHER GOVERNMENTS OF OUR DECISION AND THE  
REASONS WHICH LIE BEHIND IT SO THAT THEY CAN STUDY THE IMPLICA-  
TIONS FOR THEM OF OUR RESPONSE. I HOPE AS A RESULT THAT SOME OF  
THEM MAY DECIDE TO SEND OBSERVERS ALSO.

WE SHALL MAKE CLEAR TO PARLIAMENT AND THE PUBLIC THAT OUR  
OBSERVERS WILL BE OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC STANDING AND WILL BE  
EXPECTED TO REPORT WITHOUT BIAS IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR OWN  
OBSERVATIONS. WE SHALL UNDERTAKE TO MAKE THEIR REPORT PUBLIC.  
YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT THERE CAN BE NO GUARANTEE THAT  
THEIR REPORT WILL BE FAVOURABLE.

WE SHARE YOUR DESIRE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A DEMOCRATIC  
POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR. LEFT WING  
ELEMENTS SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXERCISE AN

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EFFECTIVE VETO OVER THAT PROCESS. WE HOPE THAT THE ELECTIONS WILL PROVE TO BE A POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN EL SALVADOR AND THAT THEY WILL PAVE THE WAY TO A MORE JUST AND STABLE SOCIETY THERE. BUT OUR OBSERVERS WILL JUDGE AS THEY FIND.

I HOPE THAT WE CAN KEEP IN THE CLOSEST TOUCH OVER EVENTS IN EL SALVADOR AT THIS IMPORTANT AND DELICATE TIME.' ENDS

CARRINGTON  
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