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cc: Fed

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

31 August, 1983

Dear Mr. Dobson,

Thank you for your letter of 4 August about rumours of the involvement in El Salvador of British personnel from the British Forces in Belize. There are no British military personnel in El Salvador and personnel on local leave from Belize are not permitted to go there.

There is an Honorary British Consul normally resident in San Salvador, and members of the British Embassy in Tegucigalpa visit El Salvador regularly.

The British garrison is in Belize solely to assist that country against external aggression. It would be quite outside its terms of reference for any members of the garrison, or any of the small number of aircraft there, to be deployed elsewhere in Central America.

I can categorically assure you, therefore, that the rumours to which you refer are completely without foundation.


Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Frank Dobson, Esq., M.P.

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A The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>2961</i> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
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