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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 September, 1983

The Prime Minister has received the attached letter from the ex-President of El Salvador, Mr. Duarte, following her meeting with him in July. I should be grateful for your advice on the form and content of a reply to Mr. Duarte.

TIMOTHY FLESHER

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Ing. José Napoleón Duarte

San Salvador, El Salvador, C. A.

September 1, 1983

Her Excellency
Margareth Thatcher
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street, SW1
London, England

Excellency:

This coming september 13 to 15, and in Brussels, Belgium, will take place the Special Meeting of the Program for the Economic Development of Central America. This event which has been organized by the Inter-American Development Bank, will present an analysis of our economies, and the investment priorities of our five Central American countries to the European Financial Community.

Remembering what you expressed to me during our conversations in London this past month of july, and knowing your faith in the principle that true peace and social justice can only be achieved in a society that guarantees to its members political liberty and democracy, I would like to point out some aspects of this meeting in Brussels which are not only of interest for El Salvador, but for all our region:

- i) For the first time, the five Central American countries are presenting to the consideration of the International Financial Community, the nature of their economic problems.
- ii) In this meeting, Central America will show to the European Economic Community that there is a regional approach to our economic problems, rather than an individual one. It could not be otherwise, the crisis in El Salvador, for example, has strong repercussions for the countries in the area and viceversa.
- iii) It should be pointed out, that our proposals to the European Community do not address themselves to amounts or financing needed, but to social and economic development as means to find the peace so necessary to overcome the region's crisis.
- iv) Our particular interest in this meeting began during my government (1980-1982), when we gave this project the uppermost importance, and basically due to my conviction that peace in Central America, is, represents the peace and the opportunity for progress so much needed in El Salvador.

Her Excellency
Margareth Thatcher

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September 1, 1983

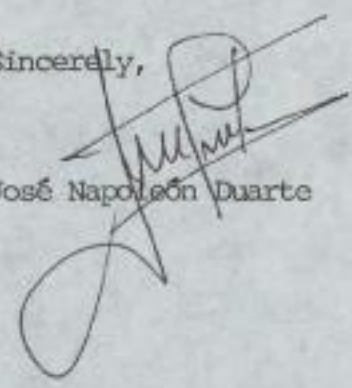
Even if El Salvador delegation to this Special Meeting does not belong to the Christian Democratic Party, I feel sure they will do their best to see that El Salvador's interests and points of view do come across. The European Community, and thanks to this event, will have the opportunity to hear our financial schemes, and jointly or through bilateral arrangements, it would be able to suggest alternative ways and new avenues to solve our economic and technical problems.

As you can see, your support and your services to El Salvador in pursuit of these objectives, along with other courageous political leaders of Europe, will be appreciated and compromise our gratitude.

We continue our struggle to create a peaceful and democratic nation here in El Salvador.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,


José Napoleón Duarte

JND:md



FILE

JH

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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