

*CCP*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*NBM*

25 July 1984

Dear Charles,

*BF*

*I have asked the FCO to withdraw this letter. Re reply on Scholarships in allegedly illegitimate, some of the quotations would grace El Salvador as they are not we*

Thank you for your letter of 21 July about the visit of President Duarte of El Salvador and follow up action. Ministers are looking urgently into the question of aid for El Salvador and we will write again about that shortly.

*we*

*Now*

*letter*

*expected by the end of the week*

*CCP*

Scholarships for Salvadorean Officers to Attend Staff College in the United Kingdom

There are no vacancies at Staff College in the UK before 1986 and it would not therefore be possible to offer Salvadorean officers places before then. Allocation of places is determined by the Ministry of Defence and any bid by El Salvador for courses in 1986 would have to be considered later this year. There could of course be a language problem as students would need to have a good working knowledge of English before attending a short intensive advance English course provided for foreign students. Human rights considerations are taken into account in deciding on eligibility for courses.

Statement by Ortega about Elections

A considerable search for the recent statement in Europe by Daniel Ortega has not produced results. However there have been a number of similar statements of which I attach a selection. The Nicaraguan Electoral Law which was promulgated on 15 March and which had been modified during discussion with opposition parties is generally regarded as fair. The question is whether the law will be fully respected. The election campaign period was initially announced as 56 days but was extended to 12 weeks following strong complaints from the opposition parties. The opposition are demanding further concessions from the Government before deciding, probably later this week, whether to take part in the elections. The State of Emergency has still not been fully lifted, although Ortega announced last week that it would be reviewed on 20 October. Meanwhile certain provisions have been eased so as to allow freedom

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of movement, of association, of mobilisation and of the press (except on military matters). In theory this would allow considerable freedom to campaign. The main doubt is whether the all-pervasive influence of the Sandinistas will allow conditions which would give equality of opportunity to all parties contesting the elections.

We shall send you a draft letter from the Prime Minister to President Duarte covering all the points raised once the question of aid has been considered further.

*Yours ever,  
Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street



'The elections in Nicaragua will not be to dispute power but to strengthen the revolution'.

Daniel Ortega 24 December 1981

'The power of the people cannot be overthrown either by bullets or votes'.

Daniel Ortega 5 December 1983

'I ask the peasants to recognize the efforts which the FSLN have made for them and when the time comes to vote for the FSLN'.

Jaime Wheelock December 1983

'The elections will be open and wide with a secret, direct vote for a President, Vice President and National Constituent Assembly'.

Carlos Nunez 14 January 1984

'Every electoral process known in Nicaragua up to now has been corrupt and dominated by the powerful class for its own benefit; we need to find our own methods chosen in conformity with our revolutionary reality'.

Carlos Nunez 14 January 1984

EL SALVADOR INT SA: Dec 81.

