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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 March 1986

Dear Charles,

El Salvador

Thank you for your letter of 7 March in which you enclosed a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the President of El Salvador. I enclose a translation of the letter and a draft reply from the Prime Minister.

President Duarte asked for our support at the 42nd session of the UN Commission on Human Rights at Geneva, 3-14 March 1986. A resolution on El Salvador was approved on 12 March by 39 votes in favour (including the UK and US) to nil, with 4 abstentions (Syria, China, Jordan and Cameroon). The Salvadoran Government will be disappointed that it did not bring to an end arrangements for UN monitoring of the human rights situation, but we and the US Government both considered that the resolution was couched in terms which merited our support. It is also significant that the new Salvadoran Ambassador recently told the Foreign Secretary that reasonable and balanced external criticism strengthened his Government's efforts to curb abuses.

Yours ever,

R N Culshaw

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

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DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
The Prime Minister

Reference
NM3ABV

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

HE José Napoleon Duarte
President of the Republic of
El Salvador

Copies to:

EL3AZF

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

~~Dear President Duarte~~

CAVEAT.....

~~I~~ Thank you for your letter of 11 February 1986 about the 42nd session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights at Geneva. As you know we warmly support your efforts to improve the human rights situation in El Salvador, and ^{we} have publicly paid tribute to your success in achieving a dramatic improvement since you took office. ~~I very much hope that you will continue to achieve success in these efforts.~~

As you will now know, we voted in favour of the resolution ^{on El Salvador in 1986} together with the United States and the great majority of members of the Human Rights Commission. ^{that} ~~But~~ we should have preferred it to have taken fuller account of ^{success which} ~~the efforts made by your Government to improve the~~ human rights position ^{But we} and made this clear in our explanation of vote.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

With warm regards

your
Government's
~~efforts~~
efforts to
success

in favour
improvements.
We shall
continue to argue
for proper recognition
of this. You will, I know,
continue to continue your efforts to deal with any abuses

EC SALVADOR, relations - 12/81



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