



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 October 1986

Dear Charles,

El Salvador Earthquake: Message of Condolence

No 10 were kept informed during the weekend about the earthquake which hit El Salvador on Friday night. It would be appropriate for the Prime Minister to send a message to President Duarte, whom she last met in June 1984. I enclose a draft telegram.

There is no reliable information yet on the death toll from the earthquake. The damage appears to have been confined to the capital of El Salvador. Figures to date vary from 600 to over 1000 killed, with many more injured and homeless. So far as we have been able to check the small British community are unhurt although some have lost their homes.

Emergency aid has been authorised and a Puma helicopter from British Forces Belize arrived in El Salvador yesterday carrying medical supplies: it will also examine what further British assistance could be provided in the rescue work. The crew met President Duarte. A 707 aircraft organised by the ODA in conjunction with the British Red Cross and jointly funded by the EC will take off today carrying tents, blankets and medical supplies. HM Ambassador (who is resident in Tegucigalpa) has been authorised to spend up to £50,000 for emergency equipment, particularly generators. The total cost of the Government's assistance so far amounts to about £200,000.

Yours ever

*(Signature)*

(R N Culshaw)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

# OUT TELEGRAM

	Classification <b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>	Caveat	Precedence <b>IMMEDIATE</b>
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	File number	Dept <b>Private Office</b>	Drafted by (Block capitals) <b>R N Culshaw</b>	Telephone no. <b>4641</b>
	Authorised for Initials Date/time despatch by:			
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# OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification <b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>	Caveat	Precedence <b>IMMEDIATE</b>
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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

13 October 1986

El Salvador Earthquake:  
Message of Condolence

Thank you for your letter of 13 October enclosing a draft message for the Prime Minister to send to President Duarte about the earthquake in El Salvador.

I am sure the Prime Minister would want to send a message and I agree that you should despatch the draft enclosed with your letter.

(CHARLES POWELL)

R.N. Culshaw, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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