



Lic. Alfredo Cristiani
Presidente Constitucional de la República
y
Comandante General de la Fuerza Armada

San Salvador, November 24, 1989

The Honorable
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
Primer Minister of
The United Kingdom

Dear Mrs. Primer Minister:

I have sent through my Foreign Ministry and the British Embassy, an urgent request for assistance in the investigation of the assassination of the Jesuit priests and their Salvadorean help.

I honestly hope that your government, along with those of Spain and the United States, will be able to meet this request.

It is essential for the continuity of our democracy that this horrendous crime be solved. Therefore, the assistance of expertise in investigative matters is very important, not only to support our own investigative team, but for the transparency of the results.

We are sure that this criminal act was designed to discredit our government and our armed forces, at a time when we were facing a major offensive by the FMLN marxist-guerillas against the civilian population of our Capital and other important cities. For this reason and as a moral imperative, we are committed to solving the case and bring those involved to justice, whoever they may be.

Respectfully Yours,

Alfredo Cristiani
Alfredo Cristiani

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DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

His Excellency
President Alfredo Cristiani [Burkard]
President
El Salvador

Thank you for your letter of 24 November asking for assistance in the investigation into the killing of the six Jesuit priests on 16 November.

appealing
I share your outrage at this terrible crime, and would like to help if we can. I have asked officials to consider urgently what help we could provide. Our Chargé d'Affaires will discuss with the appropriate authorities in San Salvador. It might be, for example, that the most useful contribution would be forensic expertise, either to visit San Salvador, or indeed to examine materials in a laboratory in the United Kingdom.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm my own support for your Government at this difficult time.

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