



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 January 1990

El Salvador: Letter from President Cristiani

I enclose a letter dated 26 October from President Cristiani to the Prime Minister thanking her for receiving him in London on 26 September. The letter was held up in the Salvadorean administrative machine. It has only now been received in London.

Since the letter was written, President Cristiani and the Prime Minister have exchanged correspondence about the murder of the six Jesuit priests in San Salvador. We do not think the earlier letter needs a reply. Although it makes a number of points about trade and aid, these are by way of commentary on matters raised during the September visit and they have to some extent been overtaken by events. The proposed visit by an ECGD official had to be shelved due to the security situation in El Salvador, as the Salvadoreans are aware. We have also explained to them that there are no funds available for a bilateral aid programme, but that we might be able to provide some additional help through scholarships. We shall be discussing this further with the Salvadoreans.

Yours are

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

Dominic Morris Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO. T215C/89



SUBJECT CC MASTER
OPS.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 December 1989

Jean R. President

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.

I share your outrage at this appalling 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.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Lic Alfredo Cristiani Burkard