

SUBJECT

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION.

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Madrid, 30th August, 1983

The Right Honourable
Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister of
GREAT BRITAIN.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T12309/83

Dear Prime Minister,

I hope you will allow me a little of your time to draw your attention to a problem that, because of its symbolism and now stark reality, must weigh on the conscience of all who wish to live in freedom and peace within a State of law.

I am referring to the situation in Chile, a decade after the violent assumption of power by General Pinochet.

Leaders of the Opposition - Socialists, Radicals, Christian Democrats - united on a common platform, have publicly asked me to stimulate the efforts of the Governments of Western Europe to help in the return of democracy and the respect of Human Rights in Chile, a country that was for decades an example of democracy for the countries of the South American Continent and now sees them trampled underfoot.

My own experiences as an opponent of an authoritarian regime; as a citizen who has been aware of the historical weakness of the international conscience while appreciating the gestures of leading politicians who wished to see a free Spain; my responsibility today as President of the Government of the youngest European democracy, in its period of consolidation, still beset by difficulties yet full of hope, compel me to face up to this duty of giving special attention to the demand of the political organisations and Trades Unions of Chile.

I cannot, nor do I wish, to don any other mantle to seek your support for an act of solidarity to help the Chilean people to come through their present difficulties and to recover their full rights to decide their own destiny.

The establishment of a common goal by the democratic political forces, the constructive attitude of the Unions and the firmness of all their quests for liberty and respect of Human Rights, constitute an internal hope. If these are accompanied by a show of external solidarity, the way will be that much easier.

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I am therefore putting forward the suggestion that we should jointly seek a way for an initiative that, while avoiding anything that might be construed as interference in the internal affairs of Chile, will be seen as important and unequivocal support for the re-establishment of democracy in Chile. I am open to any suggestions as to the content and form that this gesture should have. Once I know your opinion and that of other European leaders to whom I have written, I will attempt to synthesize all the views put forward, and the result would be submitted to you for final consideration.

Thank you for your attention. I know of your sensibility on the matter I have set before you, as I have to other European leaders, and I hope that by our efforts we shall all help to increase the number of free and democratic countries on the map of the world.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Felipe González.



Felipe González Márquez

El Presidente del Gobierno

Madrid, 30 de agosto de 1983.

Excma. Sra. Margaret Thatcher
Primer Ministro
GRAN BRETAÑA

Estimada Primer. Ministro:

Permitame que distraiga unos momentos su atención para plantearle un problema, que por su carácter de símbolo y por su realidad dramática en estos momentos, afecta a la conciencia de todos los que deseamos vivir libre y pacíficamente en un estado de derecho.

Me refiero a la situación de Chile, una década después de la violenta llegada al poder del General Pinochet.

Públicamente se me ha pedido por los responsables de la oposición - Socialistas, Radicales, Demócrata-Cristianos- agrupados en una plataforma común, que estimule los esfuerzos de los Gobiernos de Europa Occidental en favor del retorno de la democracia a Chile y del respeto a los Derechos Humanos, tan gravemente conculcados en una nación que durante decenios fue ejemplo de democracia en el Sud-continente americano.

Mis propias vivencias como opositor a un régimen autoritario, como ciudadano que ha conocido la flaqueza de la memoria histórica internacional, al mismo tiempo que apreciado los gestos de solidaridad de los responsables políticos que deseaban una España en libertad; mi responsabilidad hoy como Presidente del Gobierno de la más joven democracia europea, aún cargada de dificultades y esperanzas en su proceso de consolidación; me obligan en conciencia a prestar una atención especial a esta demanda de las organizaciones políticas y sindicales de Chile.

No puedo, no quiero, atribuirme otro título para dirigirme a Vd. pidiéndole un esfuerzo de solidaridad para ayudar al pueblo Chileno a salir de la situación en que se encuentra y recuperar su plena soberanía de decisión sobre su destino.

La maduración de un proyecto común de las fuerzas políticas democráticas, la actitud constructiva de los sindicatos y la firmeza de todos en su reivindicación de libertad y respeto a los Derechos Humanos, constituyen la esperanza interior. Si esta se ve acompañada de la solidaridad exterior, el camino será más fácil.



Por lo tanto le someto la idea de que conjuntamente busquemos la forma de tomar una iniciativa que, sin que pueda ser interpretada como una injerencia en los asuntos internos chilenos, represente una ayuda importante e inequívoca de apoyo al restablecimiento de la democracia en Chile. Estoy abierto a cualquier sugerencia sobre el contenido y forma de este gesto, y una vez conocida su opinión y la de los otros mandatarios europeos a que me he dirigido, podría intentar una síntesis de todas ellas que sometería a su consideración definitiva.

Gracias por su atención. Conozco su sensibilidad por el tema que he planteado, como a otros responsables europeos y espero que entre todos podamos ayudar a ensanchar el mapa de los pueblos libres y democráticos en el mundo.

Un cordial saludo,

Fernando González



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 September 1983

Spanish initiative with regard to Chile

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the Prime Minister of Spain suggesting that European leaders should take an initiative which, while avoiding interference in the internal affairs of Chile, would be seen as support for the re-establishment of democracy in that country. Senor Gonzalez invites suggestions on the content and form of this initiative.

I should be grateful for your advice and a draft reply.

B/R

JC

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 September 1983

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 7 September enclosing a letter from the President of the Spanish Government. This will be studied urgently and a reply sent as soon as possible.

JL

Senor Don Luis de la Torre

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SPANISH EMBASSY
24 BELGRAVE SQUARE,
LONDON, SW1X 8QA

7th September 1983

Dear Prime Minister,

I am enclosing a letter addressed to you
by Don Felipe González, President of the Spanish Government.
In case it should be of assistance, I am also enclosing
an unofficial translation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Luis de la Torre'.

Luis de la Torre
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

The Right Honourable
Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
LONDON SW1.