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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister
 Agree that we should
 subscribe to a European
 statement welcoming the
 National Accord - as the
 US Administration have
 already done?

6 September 1985

We may have no
 alternative - but I
 should have
 prepared a
 diver
 analysis

Dear Charles,

Chile: Internal

CDP 6/9. nr

My letter of 4 July provided you with an assessment of the situation in Chile following the lifting of the State of Siege on 17 June, and its replacement by a State of Emergency. The Foreign Secretary would now like to bring the Prime Minister up to date on more recent developments, and to seek her views on a proposed EC statement to welcome the "National Accord" of 25 August.

On that date the Democratic Opposition parties, brought together at the initiative of Cardinal Fresno, Archbishop of Santiago, published a responsible and restrained document entitled "Agreement on a Transition to Full Democracy" (the National Accord). This calls for the return of the armed forces to their indispensable permanent functions and for human rights abuses to be brought to justice in the courts. It also contains positive proposals for direct elections by popular vote of the President and the whole of Congress and for a means to amend the Constitution. It has been widely welcomed as a long overdue demonstration of common purpose by all the democratic opposition. It has put pressure on President Pinochet who has so far responded evasively to it.

The US Government has warmly welcomed the Accord. Three prominent MEPS, who recently visited Chile, are this week tabling a resolution in the European Parliament calling on the Council of Ministers to issue a statement of support. There is also a growing sentiment among EC partners in favour of a Community statement. The Foreign Secretary thinks this would be appropriate. It accords with his view that we should support actions likely to encourage the coherence and purpose of moderate democratic forces in Chile, to reduce political polarisation, and to help bring about a peaceful return to democracy. As you know, Community Foreign Ministers are due to meet on 10 September, one day before the twelfth anniversary of Pinochet's coup. It would be a good day for the statement of encouragement we have in mind. The Foreign Secretary recommends that we agree to this joint initiative with our partners.

The National Accord has been presented to a government greatly troubled in recent weeks by the findings of Judge Canovas

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appointed to investigate the murders earlier this year of three human rights activists. His charges against fourteen members of the uniformed police (Carabineros) led to the unexpected resignation on 2 August of General Mendoza, head of the Carabineros and member of the ruling Junta, and to the subsequent dismissal of other Carabineros, including five generals. The police intelligence service (DICOMAR) has been dissolved, and tensions have built up between the Carabineros and the central intelligence agency (CNI). These events have served to confirm the extent to which the Government of President Pinochet must have been involved in the kidnappings, torture and murders which have agitated Chilean (and British) public opinion in recent months.

Although Pinochet has to some extent successfully deflected criticism from himself to the Carabineros, his recent rather wild public declarations have shown that he is under some pressure and on the defensive. However, the army remains loyal to him and until this changes, he will remain in control. Nonetheless, some cracks have shown in the cohesion of the armed forces, Pinochet's powerbase, and the moderate democratic opposition have at last, under the Church's influence, patched up their differences in pursuit of their shared aspiration, a controlled return to democratic processes. In all the circumstances, the National Accord is a development which deserves to be encouraged.

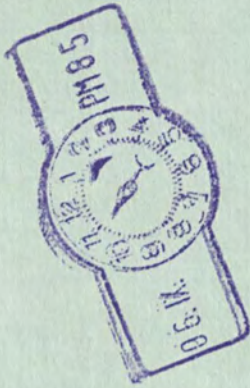
Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

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Private Secretary

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Chile: Relaciones Sept 79





10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 September, 1985.

CHILE

You wrote to me on 6 September about the proposed statement by the Ten on Chile. The Prime Minister would have preferred to see the Ten conduct a fuller analysis of the situation in Chile and of the role of the National Accord before rushing into a statement. If it were feasible to delay any statement until a later Ministerial meeting, that would be her preference. But she recognises that there may be no alternative to our subscribing to a statement on 10 September.

(C.D. Powell)

P.F. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.