

① cc Andrew Patrich, Aco
Her Sutter, Home Office
Selus 12 Wood, CO.



- Lady Thatcher
Will be making
a statement - but
She will not be

Top JEM

AC

PB

MC

② Bad by

27/11

Margaret Thatcher

Releasing this
letter to the Press
25th November 1998

My dear Prime Minister,

I know that you are in Northern Ireland at the time of my writing, but you will certainly have been informed of the ruling by the Law Lords in the case of Senator Pinochet. Your officials will also doubtless have confirmed that this ruling places the matter of the Senator's fate squarely back into the hands of the government, more especially the hands of the Home Secretary who can withhold his authority for the extradition to proceed, thus allowing Senator Pinochet to return unhindered to Chile.

I am convinced that, however strongly we feel about some of the abuses which took place while Pinochet was in power, the right decision now is to act swiftly to release him to return home. He is an old, sick man who on compassionate grounds alone should be spared what the future would otherwise hold. More important, if he remains here and is finally extradited this will create serious problems both for Britain and for Chile. It can only do this country's reputation harm if it is known that those, like Senator Pinochet, who were our close friends in times of extreme national danger can subsequently expect to be betrayed in this way.

Senator Pinochet's extradition would also bode ill for Chile. That country has achieved in recent years a remarkable degree of national reconciliation by effectively granting Pinochet and others immunity. This may offend the purists. But when I was Prime Minister we judged it right in Zimbabwe to have an amnesty for former terrorists as a precondition for the peaceful transition of that country to majority rule. You yourself have taken a similar decision as regards Irish Republican and Loyalist terrorists as part of the Good Friday Agreement. It is surely thus doubly wrong for Britain to deny the Chileans the right to make their own decisions on these difficult matters. As it is, Chile, with which our relations have already been seriously damaged, may now be thrown into political turmoil.

I fully understand that in taking the decision which I am urging, you will incur criticism in certain quarters. But my judgement is that you are not someone to be deflected from taking the right actions by that. May I also respectfully add that the sooner such a decision by the Home Secretary is made and given effect, the better for all concerned.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Harold Shipman

The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
The Prime Minister

THATCHER

18/12



Faxed to FCO + #10

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Assistant Private Secretary

Not Ack' 14 December 1998

Dear Lisa,

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Lady Thatcher.

I should be grateful if you would provide an urgent draft reply for Prime Ministerial signature, to reach this office by Friday, 18 December. Please could you co-ordinate/clear your reply with other Departments as necessary.

I am copying this letter to Ailish King-Fisher (Home Office).

Yours ever

Jamie Richards

MRS J K RICHARDS

(JEH)

Miss Lisa Farrington
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

John, Yes please. 13/12.

FCO have asked where ~~he~~ should provide
a draft reply to his letter.

Home Office have also said they could
contribute.

Would you like W2 to be formally set up /
requested?

Heleen
11/12

PAEM 49 / 212