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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Frei
cc/B
AC
JB

From the Private Secretary

13 May 1999

Dear Sherard,

CALL FROM THE SPANISH PRIME MINISTER: PINOCHET

During their telephone conversation today, Aznar raised the Pinochet case.

Aznar said he had talked to President Frei several times. Frei wanted to talk to the Prime Minister to explain the difficult situation he faced. He believed Frei would want the Prime Minister to reflect on the possibility of a humanitarian intervention. Frei was under pressure, including from the armed forces. He was a good person and Aznar urged the Prime Minister to listen to him. That was his only request. But Frei had wanted Aznar to check beforehand that there was no problem in him calling. The Prime Minister assured him that there was not and that he would listen carefully to Frei.

Comment

It would be helpful to have advice on what President Frei is likely to say and the options for the Prime Minister's response. I had understood that there was a possibility of Spanish/Chilean agreement to drop charges in Spain. Is that still a runner?

I am copying this letter to Hilary Jackson (Home Office) and Sebastian Wood (Cabinet Office).

The call is likely to take place on Tuesday, so briefing needed by Monday night.

Yours ever,

JOHN SAWERS

Sherard Cowper-Coles Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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