



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 July 1979

Prime Minister

John Bryan

Agree?

Not yet
please
consider
Nicaragua
intellectual
content?

Please
write

don't dash
recognition yet.
we were receiving
the

The "provisional government of national reconstruction" has been installed in Nicaragua and has named a Cabinet. The change of government is not within the terms of the old Nicaraguan constitution, which the new government has abolished. The question of recognition therefore arises for HMG. Our Ambassador to Costa Rica has reported that the new government is in effective control of Nicaragua and can be expected to remain so for the foreseeable future. Our present criteria for recognition have therefore been met.

There are political reasons for getting on terms with the new Nicaraguan Government as early as possible. The new Cabinet is a generally moderate, broad-based team with, so far, only one Sandinista member. Early recognition would support the international efforts, led by the United States and the democratic Latin American states to seek closer ties with the new government with the aim of encouraging the influence of the moderate, democratic influences within it. They hope thereby to avert the possibility of a gradual takeover of the government by the extreme left-wing Sandinistas and the threat of a Castro-style government on the Latin American mainland.

The United States have announced recognition of the new government and France, the FRG, Italy and Denmark intend to recognise and/or establish contact with the new regime during the next few days.

On balance, Lord Carrington therefore believes that we should now recognise the new government.

Yours ever,
Stephen
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