

Subject



File

cc FCO

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cc Master  
OPS

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 May 1985

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T84/85

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your message of 13 April.

I must begin by rejecting the abusive language you use about the United States. Your allegations bear no relation to the aims and objectives of the United States Administration. They have committed themselves to seek peaceful solutions to the problems of Central America in conditions which will promote political stability, national security, economic recovery and the consolidation of democracy in the countries of the region.

The British Government share these aims. We have frequently stated our full support for the Contadora process. We attach importance to the negotiation of effective verification and control measures - and strict observance of them by all parties - in order to ensure compliance with an eventual Contadora agreement.

We have viewed with serious concern many of Nicaragua's own actions, in particular the build-up of your country's armed forces and armaments, which has served to increase instability in Central America and is a matter of legitimate concern to your neighbours. As I told Vice-President Ramirez when he called on me in February, Britain's attitude towards Nicaragua will depend on the extent to which your country is prepared to reduce the level of its armaments, to put an end to interference in the affairs of its

SPW

neighbours and to establish genuine pluralist democracy. These measures are fully in accord with the Contadora principles. By implementing them Nicaragua would make a real contribution to peace and stability in Central America.

Yours sincerely  
Rafael Ángel Calderón

His Excellency Sr. Daniel Ortega

"Dear N. President"

[This replaces an  
earlier & rather craven  
FCO draft. I don't think  
you can just let the  
wild allegations in Ortega's  
letter pass]. CDD.



CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 May, 1985

*Dear Charles,*

Nicaragua: Letter from President Ortega

Thank you for your letter of 2 May about the draft reply from the Prime Minister to the message of 13 April from President Ortega. I enclose a revised version.

*Yours ever,*

*Peter Ricketts*

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL



DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: 47

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: HE Sr Daniel Ortega  
President of the Republic of  
Nicaragua

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your message of 13 April.

CAVEAT.....

I must begin by rejecting the abusive language you use about the United States. Your allegations bear no relation to the aims and objectives of the United States Administration. They have ~~stated~~ <sup>committed</sup> ~~themselves to~~ many times that they seek peaceful solutions to the problems of Central America in conditions which will promote political stability, national security, economic recovery and the consolidation of democracy in the countries of the region.

The British Government share these aims. We have ~~many times made clear~~ <sup>freely stated</sup> our full support for the Contadora process. We attach importance to the negotiation of effective verification and control measures - and strict observance of them by all parties - in order to ensure compliance with an eventual Contadora agreement.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

We have viewed with serious concern many of  
/Nicaragua's

Nicaragua's own actions, in particular the build-up of your country's armed forces and armaments, <sup>which</sup> This has served to increase instability in Central America and is a matter of legitimate concern to your neighbours. As I told Vice-President Ramirez when he called on me in February, Britain's attitude towards Nicaragua will depend on the extent to which your country is prepared to reduce the level of its armaments, to put an end to interference in the affairs of its neighbours and to establish genuine pluralist democracy. These measures are fully in accord with the Contadora principles. By implementing them Nicaragua would make a real contribution to peace and stability in Central America.

cmj.

N/CAR Aguis  
Lut Sol

9 MAY 1985

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

2 May 1985

## NICARAGUA: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT ORTEGA

Thank you for your letter of 1 May enclosing a draft reply from the Prime Minister to President Ortega's message.

I simply do not believe that the Prime Minister will want to let pass a letter from President Ortega containing phrases like "dictatorial interference", "aggressive war", "warmongering strategy", "law of jungle" with a bland reply referring to the Contadora process. At the least the reply should surely say that the Prime Minister rejects the abusive language and hysterical accusations made against the United States and that the best contribution to peace in the area will be for Nicaragua to reduce its armaments, end support for efforts to destabilise her neighbours and establish genuine pluralist democracy.

(C. D. POWELL)

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

CONFIDENTIAL

CST

JR(S4)  
bcPC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 May 1985

Dear Charles,

*PPS 5 [unclear]*

Nicaragua: Letter from President Ortega

Thank you for your letter of 29 April.

I enclose a brief draft reply to the letter from President Ortega about President Reagan's proposals of 4 April. The proposals have of course been overtaken by the US Congress vote against US support for the "contras" and the US announcement of trade sanctions against Nicaragua. But we see no need to comment on these developments in replying to President Ortega.

*Yours ever,*

*Peter Ricketts*

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street



LETTER  
DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:  
The Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

H E Senor Daniel Ortega  
President of the Republic of Nicaragua

Copies to:

(to be despatched by telegram to  
HM Ambassador San Jose)

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Thank you for your letter of 13 April.

The British Government have consistently made clear our full support for the Contadora process. We attach importance to adequate verification measures to ensure compliance with a Contadora Agreement.

We look to Nicaragua to establish genuine pluralist democracy, reduce armaments and end support for efforts to destabilize her neighbours.

Enclosures—flag(s).....



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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

29 April 1985

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the President of Nicaragua of which copies have apparently also gone to the Heads of State and Heads of Government of the EC countries, the Contadora countries and Latin American countries.

BF/ I do not believe that the Prime Minister would wish this letter to go unchallenged, and I should therefore be grateful for a draft reply.

(C. D. POWELL)

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

✓

CP  
ATT  
TRANSLATION  
ATTACHED.

*With the Compliments  
of the  
Embassy of Nicaragua*

This letter was also sent to the Heads of State, or the Heads of Governments of the E.E.C., the Group of Countries of Contadora and the Presidents of other countries in Latin America.

15.4.85

8 GLOUCESTER ROAD  
LONDON SW7 4PP

TELEPHONE: 01-584 4365

CONSULAR SECTION: 01-584 3231





EMBAJADA DE NICARAGUA  
GRAN BRETAÑA

MANAGUA, 13 de Abril de 1985

**PRIME MINISTER'S**

**PERSONAL MESSAGE**

**SERIAL No;** .....

T666/85

CL MASTER  
OPS

Primer Ministro y Amiga :

Me es grato dirigirme a usted en la oportunidad de referirme al planteamiento hecho público el 4 de Abril pasado, por el Presidente de Estados Unidos, Ronald Reagan, en relación a Nicaragua. El planteamiento del Presidente Reagan, a juicio del Gobierno de Nicaragua, constituye no sólo un ultimátum y una interferencia dictatorial en los asuntos de un país soberano, sino un reconocimiento expreso y amplio de que el Gobierno Norteamericano lleva adelante una guerra de agresión contra Nicaragua a través de un ejército organizado, dirigido y armado por dicho Gobierno.

El Gobierno Norteamericano evidenció una vez más que impulsa y ejecuta una política de fuerza profundamente intervencionista, que a través de una continuada conducta ilícita, pretende imponer sus propias soluciones al margen de la ley internacional y sin respeto alguno a los más sagrados derechos de los pueblos de Nicaragua y Centroamérica. A partir de ese rechazo consecuente y sistemático a la ley internacional, el Gobierno Norteamericano ha bloqueado y despreciado todos los medios de solución pacífica a la crisis regional, incluyendo la Corte Internacional de Justicia, las conversaciones en Manzanillo y los esfuerzos del Grupo de Contadora.

..2

Excelentísima Señora  
Margaret Thatcher, F.R.S.  
Primer Ministro  
del Gobierno de Su Majestad Británica  
Londres.





EMBAJADA DE NICARAGUA  
GRAN BRETAÑA

2.

Son evidentes sus intenciones de derrocar al Gobierno de Nicaragua y de destruir a la Revolución Sandinista. El Presidente Reagan presentó el 4 de Abril, un virtual ultimátum en base al cual, si el Gobierno de Nicaragua no adecúa su política interna y externa a los dictados del Gobierno Norteamericano, dicho Gobierno se considerará en libertad de incrementar su guerra de agresión contra Nicaragua, sin excluír, como lo han expresado en reiteradas ocasiones altos representantes de la Administración Norteamericana, la intervención armada.

Como señalara anteriormente, Nicaragua no puede admitir el ultimátum presentado por el Presidente Reagan, ni puede aceptar la política intervencionista de agresión, amenazas y coersiones, por la cual se pretende que Nicaragua renuncie a su soberanía, autodeterminación e independencia. Más aun, aceptar esa política significaría no sólo reducir a nuestro País a una situación neocolonial de protectorado, sino reconocer el fracaso de la ley internacional y el triunfo de una política ilegal de fuerza, resquebrajando seriamente el actual ordenamiento jurídico internacional y, por ende, todo el sistema que con tanta dificultad se ha venido construyendo para mejor garantizar la paz y seguridad internacionales y los derechos de todas las naciones. Aceptar el ultimátum no sería otra cosa que aceptar la ley de la selva en las relaciones internacionales y poner en peligro el futuro soberano de las naciones de América Latina y el Tercer Mundo.

Como parte de su estrategia belicista y de su empeño por aislar a Nicaragua, el Gobierno Norteamericano pretende nuevamente involucrar a países del Grupo de Contadora y a otras naciones latinoamericanas y europeas, para que avalen su proyecto intervencionista y guerrerista. En esta situación,





EMBAJADA DE NICARAGUA  
GRAN BRETAÑA

3.

Nicaragua confía en que los países integrantes del Grupo de Contadora mantendrán incólumes los principios que dieron origen y que fundamentan esa iniciativa latinoamericana de paz, especialmente la no intervención y el rechazo de uso y amenaza del uso de la fuerza, es decir, de los principios básicos sobre los cuales descansan la paz y la seguridad internacionales.

Una ratificación de la vigencia de estos principios es tanto más necesaria ya que el llamado "Plan Reagan" amenaza gravemente los esfuerzos de paz del Grupo de Contadora. A su negativa de aceptar el Acta de Contadora de Septiembre de 1984, el Presidente Reagan pretende hoy agregar, y con la amenaza de un plazo fijo, sus soluciones de fuerza y liquidar las expectativas de paz y el proceso negociador de Contadora.

El Gobierno de Nicaragua, desde el triunfo de la Revolución de 1979, se ha caracterizado por sus esfuerzos en promover el Diálogo y la solución negociada de las controversias internacionales, habiendo presentado en múltiples ocasiones distintas iniciativas de paz, que es innecesario reseñar ahora. El marco de todas esas iniciativas ha sido siempre el de un estricto respeto a las normas y principios de la Carta de Naciones Unidas y del Derecho Internacional, particularmente el respeto a los principios de no intervención, igualdad soberana y respeto de la soberanía, independencia e integridad territorial de los Estados y el de la solución pacífica de las controversias.

Nuestro país ha sido particularmente cuidadoso en el fiel cumplimiento de todos estos principios, así como exigente en que esos mismos principios sean fielmente respetados en relación a





EMBAJADA DE NICARAGUA  
GRAN BRETAÑA

4.

Nicaragua. Desde esta perspectiva, siempre hemos considerado positivos todos los esfuerzos dirigidos a alcanzar soluciones pacíficas negociadas a la crisis regional, incluyendo el diálogo directo entre los Gobiernos involucrados, demandando únicamente el respeto a las normas internacionales.

Por lo mismo, nuestro Gobierno no quiere que nuestra digna actitud de rechazo al ultimátum se interprete como un rechazo al diálogo. Nosotros siempre nos hemos manifestado a favor del diálogo como primer recurso al que debe recurrirse siempre para resolver situaciones conflictivas y garantizar la paz y la seguridad internacionales. Es por ello que considero oportuno aprovechar esta coyuntura para reiterar una vez más :

1. Nuestro decidido apoyo y respaldo al Proceso Negociador de Contadora. Nicaragua reafirma su firme convicción que este Proceso de inspiración latinoamericana, constituye una alternativa real de paz y que debe ser preservado y fortalecido.
2. Nuestra demanda de que Estados Unidos reanude de inmediato las conversaciones bilaterales en Manzanillo, unilateralmente suspendidas por ellos. Manzanillo debe ser utilizado para sentar las bases para la normalización de relaciones entre Nicaragua y los Estados Unidos, y ahí Estados Unidos puede presentar sus propuestas y Nicaragua también presentará su propio Plan de Paz. Dichas Propuestas deberán ser objeto del Diálogo en Manzanillo.

En la presente coyuntura, se hace necesario reforzar la solidaridad latinoamericana, reforzando uno de los grandes principios nacidos en nuestro Continente, como es el principio de la no inter-





EMBAJADA DE NICARAGUA  
GRAN BRETAÑA

5.

vención. Una actitud diferente provocaría el fracaso definitivo de las gestiones del Grupo de Contadora y un profundo retroceso y graves perjuicios, no sólo a la soberanía, autodeterminación e independencia del pueblo nicaragüense, sino a la de todos los pueblos latinoamericanos.

En tal confianza, aprovecho gustoso esta ocasión para renovar a Vuestra Excelencia, las seguridades de mi alta estimación.

Firmado:

Daniel Ortega S.

Presidente de la República de Nicaragua

NICARAGUAN EMBASSY  
GREAT BRITAIN

CCPC

MANAGUA, 13 April 1985

Dear Prime Minister and Friend,

I am writing to you in connection with the statement released on 4 April last by the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, concerning Nicaragua. In the opinion of the Nicaraguan Government, President Reagan's statement not only amounts to an ultimatum and dictatorial interference in the affairs of a sovereign country, but also to a full and express admission that the United States Government is waging an aggressive war against Nicaragua using an army organised, directed and armed by the said Government.

The United States Government has given evidence once more that it is promoting and implementing a profoundly interventionist policy of force which, by means of continued illegal conduct, is endeavouring to impose its own solutions outside the framework of international law and without any respect for the most sacred rights of the peoples of Nicaragua and Central America. By means of this consistent and systematic rejection of international law, the United States Government has obstructed and disregarded all peaceful means of solving the regional crisis, including the International Court of Justice, the talks at Manzanillo and the efforts of the Contadora Group.

Its intentions of overthrowing the Nicaraguan Government and destroying the Sandinista Revolution are clear. On 4 April, President Reagan delivered a virtual ultimatum to the effect that if the Nicaraguan Government does not make its domestic and foreign policy conform to the dictates of the United States Government, the said Government will consider itself at liberty to step up its war of aggression against Nicaragua which, as foremost representatives of the United States Administration have repeatedly said, does not exclude armed intervention.

As it has already indicated, Nicaragua cannot accept the ultimatum



delivered by President Reagan, nor can it accept the interventionist policy of aggression, threats and coercion which is being pursued to try to get Nicaragua to give up its sovereignty, self-determination and independence. Furthermore, to accept that policy would not only mean reducing our country to the status of a neocolonial protectorate, but also to recognise the failure of international law and the triumph of an illegal policy of force, thereby seriously damaging the present international legal system and, hence, the whole system which has been so painstakingly constructed in order better to guarantee peace and security and the rights of all nations. To accept the ultimatum would be no less than to accept the law of the jungle in international relations and endanger the future sovereignty of the nations of Latin America and the Third World.

As part of its warmongering strategy and its efforts to isolate Nicaragua, the United States Government is again trying to get countries of the Contadora Group and other Latin American and European nations to endorse its interventionist and militarist plans. In this situation, Nicaragua trusts that the member countries of the Contadora Group will maintain intact the principles that gave rise to and provide the foundation for the Latin American peace initiative, especially non-intervention and rejection of the use and threat of force, i.e. the basic principles on which international peace and security are based.

Ratification of the validity of these principles is all the more necessary as the so-called "Reagan Plan" is seriously threatening the Contadora Group's efforts for peace. After his refusal to accept the Contadora Act of September 1984 President Reagan now aims to impose, with the threat of a deadline, his solutions involving force, dash expectations of peace and eliminate the Contadora negotiating process.

The Government of Nicaragua, since the triumph of the Revolution in 1979, has distinguished itself in its efforts to promote dialogue and negotiated settlement of international disputes and has proposed on many occasions a number of peace initiatives which do not need to be mentioned here. These initiatives have always operated within

the framework of strict observance of the rules and principles of the United Nations Charter and international law, particularly observance of the principles of non-intervention, sovereign equality and respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States, and have always been geared towards peaceful settlement of disputes.

Our country has been especially meticulous in implementing all these principles and has equally demanded that these same principles be faithfully observed with regard to Nicaragua. In this respect, we have always approved all efforts aimed at peaceful negotiated solutions to the regional crisis, including direct dialogue between the governments involved, and have only asked that international rules be observed.

By the same token, our Government would not like our justifiable rejection of the ultimatum to be viewed as a rejection of dialogue. We have always declared ourselves to be in favour of dialogue as the first recourse which must always be resorted to in order to resolve situations of conflict and guarantee international peace and security. I therefore consider it appropriate to state once again:

1. Our firm support and backing for the Contadora Negotiating Process. Nicaragua reiterates its firm conviction that this Latin American-inspired process represents a real alternative for peace which must be preserved and strengthened.
2. Our request that the United States immediately resumes the bilateral talks at Manzanillo which it unilaterally suspended. Manzanillo must be used to lay the foundations for normalisation of relations between Nicaragua and the United States; there, the United States can put forward its proposals and Nicaragua will also put forward its own Peace Plan. These proposals must be the subject of the dialogue at Manzanillo.

In this situation, it is necessary to strengthen Latin American solidarity by reinforcing one of the great principles born of our continent, which is that of non-intervention. A different attitude



would bring about the definitive failure of the initiatives of the Contadora Group, would be a major setback and would do serious harm not only to the sovereignty, self-determination and independence of the Nicaraguan people but also to that of all the Latin American peoples.

[Complimentary close]

signed:

Daniel Ortega S.  
President of the Republic of Nicaragua



Michigan Agents

