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EL SALVADOR: Int Sit  
Dec '81



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER **PRIME MINISTER'S** 6 August, 1984

**PERSONAL MESSAGE**

**SERIAL No. T141/K**

Dear Mr. President,

Let me say again how very glad I was to have the opportunity to talk with you on 21 July. I was heartened by your robust approach to the problems which you are having to tackle. Your election marked a vital stage in restoring to the people of El Salvador hope in the future through democratic progress. You have our full support in this endeavour.

During our very interesting conversation, you raised with me the possibility of economic aid for El Salvador and of the provision of scholarships for some of your military officers.

I have looked into this and can now tell you that we are ready to reintroduce a programme of technical co-operation with El Salvador. Training awards in Britain might form the main element of this.

In addition we should be pleased to provide £100,000 worth of urgently needed civilian supplies or equipment.

We are ready to discuss your requirements and priorities with your officials through our Mission in San Salvador so that these aid offers can be rapidly implemented.

As regards scholarships for military officers, we shall

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make available as soon as possible one or two staff college places for suitably qualified Salvadorean officers with a working knowledge of English. Arrangements for military scholarships at staff colleges and other institutions are made well in advance. Our Ministry of Defence will be considering later this year applications for courses in 1986, and we shall be happy to have nominations from you for those courses. I shall ensure that you are informed if any earlier vacancy becomes available.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Rangaut Shatta

His Excellency Senor Ing Jose Napoleon Duarte