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Subject on
Colombia,
Sept '83, Relations

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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

25 October 1983

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE**

SERIAL No. T164/83

Dear Mr. President

Thank you for your message of 11 October about proposals for the social and economic development of Central America.

I have read it with great interest and am grateful to you for describing so clearly the challenge facing those who are working for the social and economic recovery of the region.

The British Government are observing closely the troubled situation and have sympathy for those facing hardship resulting from conflict and economic disruption. We share your concern to see Central America restored to prosperity and stability.

I hope that the recent Special Meeting in Brussels on Economic Development in Central America has contributed to better understanding of Central American problems among the international community. I also hope that trade and investment will have been encouraged to play their part in the development of the region. But I am sure that Your Excellency and your Presidential colleagues will agree that the first priority in the countries of Central America must be to restore peace and stability without which the necessary climate of confidence will be absent. This is vital

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in itself, but will also contribute to the future strengthening of democracy and help to set the region on a new path.

In common with our European partners we shall continue to support in any way we can the efforts being made to promote peace, stability and democracy in Central America.

Yours sincerely
Raymond Thatcher

His Excellency Dr. Belisario Betancur Cuartas