

SECRET

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Possible visit of the
Venezuelan President-Elect.

VENEZUELA

Internal Situation



November 1983

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Re	Referred to	Date
1.12.83						
9.12.83						
22.12.83						
16.1.84						
25.2.85						
13.2.88						
17.2.88						
7.12.88						
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5.3.91						
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4.12.91						
27.1.92						
28						
20.5.92						
30.11.92						

PREM 19/2893

JD

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**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 164 B**



**10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA**

*Subject filed on Venezuela
Int. Sit. Nov 83*

THE PRIME MINISTER

12 September 1989

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your letter of 30 August which I have received from your Ambassador in London. I am grateful to you for keeping us informed of the progress of your negotiations with your commercial bank creditors. I have followed closely the progress of the economic reform programme you have courageously pursued since taking office.

I welcome your determination, despite the difficult and tragic events of earlier this year, to persevere with these policies. Britain fully endorses the strengthened debt strategy which allows the use of a portion of IMF and World Bank lending to facilitate commercial bank debt reduction. I am glad that Venezuela is one of the first countries to benefit from this new approach. The agreement reached with the IMF and IBRD is a measure of the economic reforms you are undertaking.

Our policy has always been not to intervene in negotiations between governments and their commercial creditors. I am sure that Venezuela's creditors will take into account the constructive way in which your Government is dealing with the debt situation when considering your request. But any agreement must be a commercially-based and voluntary one.

*Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher*

His Excellency Mr. Carlos Andres Perez

tw

Embajada de Venezuela
Londres

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T164a

Subject field on VENEZUELA: INTSIR

Nov '83

Mrs
Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of Great Britain
London
ENGLAND

cc OPS
MASTER

Dear Prime Minister,

From the beginning of my government in February 1989, a programme of strict economic measures has been applied, aimed at correcting the imbalance affecting our development possibilities with the functioning of a more opened and flexible economy.

This programme has started to bear fruit and it is fully supported by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. As proof of its support the International Monetary Bank approved for Venezuela \$4,600 million with extended facilities; and the World Bank has granted loans for structural adjustment and commercial policy for 400 million dollars.

In order to consolidate this process of adjustment and the early recovery of the economy a prompt negotiation of the foreign debt, on acceptable terms, is essential.

It is for this reason that I address myself to you. To share with you my concern, since for all practical purposes our negotiations with the banks are in a state of stagnation. As you are probably aware, Venezuela has always met its obligations, even when the state of the external accounts made this inadvisable. For the last five years, Venezuela has devoted more than 50% of its oil revenues to honouring the external debt. This responsible attitude vis a vis the international financial community has depleted our reserves and this situation can not be corrected without the wholehearted support of the international banking community which would enable us to conclude a global negotiation including the present debt situation and its definitive restructuring within the framework of the Brady Initiative,

Embajada de Venezuela
Londres

- 2 -

for debt reduction during 1989 and thus the consolidation of the economic adjustment programme.

The banks have acknowledged a major residual deficit of \$1,500 million in the Venezuelan Balance of Payments for 1989. This residual deficit can not be met by Venezuela. The banks must take into consideration the efforts that Venezuela has always made and help us to emerge successfully in these negotiations.

Prime Minister, even though, it does not directly concern your government, I would be very grateful for your good offices, with regard to a more understanding attitude on the part of the banks towards our proposal.

Our negotiating team, formed by the President of the Central Bank, the Minister of State-Head of the Central Office for Coordination and Planning and the President's Commissioner for Renegotiating the External Debt will propose a solution aimed at breaking the deadlock, details of which will be provided to the financial authorities of your country.

I thank you, in advance for your support and the support of the financial authorities of your country, in achieving a prompt solution to the problem of Venezuela's external debt.

Yours sincerely,

Carlos Andrés Pérez

570

cell



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 September 1989

Dear Charles

Letter to the Prime Minister from the President of Venezuela

/ The Venezuelan Ambassador has delivered to us the
enclosed letter from the President of Venezuela to the
Prime Minister. President Perez asks for the Prime
Minister's support in the negotiations Venezuela is now
engaged in with her commercial bank creditors. The
Venezuelan Ambassador was told firmly that HMG would not
intervene with British banks, and I recommend that the
Prime Minister should reply along the lines of the draft
/ letter attached which has been agreed with the Treasury.

I am copying this letter to John Gieve in the Treasury.

Yours ever

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:
Prime Minister
DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

Your Reference

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

Carlos Andres Perez
President of the Republic of Venezuela

AM

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

SUBJECT:

Thank you for your letter of 30 August 1989 which I have received from your Ambassador in London. I am grateful to you for keeping us informed of the progress of your negotiations with your commercial bank creditors. I have followed closely the progress of the economic reform programme you have courageously pursued since taking office.

diff. Mr P

I welcome your determination, despite the tragic events of earlier this year, to persevere with these policies, which are so important to ensuring domestic and international economic viability. As you know, *Sivain* we fully endorse the strengthened debt strategy which allows the use of a portion of IMF and World Bank lending to facilitate commercial bank debt reduction. ~~And~~ I am glad that Venezuela is one of the first countries to benefit from this new approach. The agreement reached with the IMF and IBRD is a measure of the

Enclosures flag(s)

economic reform ~~measures~~ you are undertaking.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret

Secret

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PRIVACY MARKING

.....

In Confidence

~~The priority now is for you to reach a mutually~~
~~satisfactory agreement with your commercial bank~~
~~creditors.~~ *As regards regulations with*
 Our policy has always been not to
 intervene in negotiations between governments and
 their commercial creditors. I am sure that *your*
 creditors will take into account the constructive
 way in which *your Government is* ~~you are~~ dealing with your ~~country's~~ *debt*
 debt situation when considering your request. But
 any agreement you may reach must, ~~ultimately,~~ be a
 commercially-based and voluntary one.

DR

RESTRICTED



We from
(43)
cell

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

7 December 1988

ELECTION OF NEW VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT

Be. Thank you for your letter of 6 December proposing a message of congratulations from the Prime Minister to the new President of Venezuela. I am sure that the Prime Minister would be content to send a message and the text proposed in your letter may issue.

C. D. Powell

J.S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RESTRICTED

fm

UNCLASSIFIED

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MDHOAN 0689

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T.18.5a/88

*Subject cc Mante
OPS*

UNCLASSIFIED
FM FCO
TO IMMEDIATE CARACAS
TELNO 167
OF 061615Z DECEMBER 88

VENEZULEAN ELECTIONS: MESSAGE TO CAP

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ.

BEGIN - PLEASE ACCEPT MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR VICTORY ON THE RECENT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. I WISH YOU AND YOUR FUTURE GOVERNMENT EVERY SUCCESS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE PRESENT GOOD RELATIONS ENJOYED BY OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE MAINTAINED AND STRENGTHENED IN THE YEARS TO COME. - ENDS

HOWE

YYYY

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43

MAIN

43

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PS/MRS CHALKER
PS/MR EGGAR
PS/PUS
SIR J FRETWELL
MR FEARN

NNNN

RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 December 1988

Dear Charles,

Election of New Venezuelan President

In the Venezuelan Presidential elections of 4 December, the Centre-left candidate, Carlos Andres Perez - previously President of Venezuela from 1974 to 1979 - defeated his Christian Democrat rival, Eduardo Fernandez.

In 1983 the Prime Minister sent a message of congratulations to the then President-elect, now President, Jaime Lusinchi. Venezuela is a stable democracy, an important export market and a force for stability in the region.

The Foreign Secretary suggests that the Prime Minister might consider sending a message to the President-elect on the following lines:

"Please accept my warmest congratulations on your victory in the recent presidential elections. I wish you and your future government every success. I am confident that the present good relations enjoyed by our two countries will be maintained and strengthened in the years to come."

Yours,

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

cc PC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 February 1988

Dear Charles

DD 15/2.

Venezuela

top enc

Thank you for your letter of 13 February. There is no compelling reason for the Prime Minister to see Mr Fernandez. He is in fact unlikely to win.

Yours ever

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



FILE
DA
PC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

13 February 1988

VENEZUELA

We have had an approach suggesting that the Prime Minister should see a Mr. Eduardo Fernandez, a Conservative candidate in the Venezuela Presidential elections. He is likely to be in London on 18-20 February and 23-27 February. While in Europe, he is apparently seeing Chancellor Kohl.

I am not convinced that it is a good thing for the Prime Minister to start seeing Presidential election candidates in Venezuela, even if of conservative persuasion; and anyway her other commitments make it difficult. I should be grateful if you could let me know in the course of Monday whether there are strong reasons in favour of the Prime Minister seeing him, of which I should take account.

(C.D. POWELL)

R.N. Culshaw, Esq., M.V.O.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

dg

MR. POWELL

POSSIBLE VISIT BY EDUARDO FERNANDEZ

Lord Shackleton phoned earlier today and, in your absence, spoke to me.

He had been approached by Mr. Eduardo Fernandez, a Conservative candidate for the Venezuelan presidency who wishes to call on the Prime Minister during his European visit. Mr. Fernandez has apparently already made an appointment with Chancellor Kohl. The suggested dates were either 18-20 February or 23-27 February.

Lord Shackleton had apparently asked Mr. Fernandez why he was not seeking to arrange a meeting through the usual channels. The response was that Mr. Fernandez saw things as an approach from one Conservative politician to another. Before coming to us, Lord Shackleton had nonetheless approached the Foreign Office. Giles Fitzherbert, our Ambassador in Venezuela, was said to be in favour of the Prime Minister seeing Mr. Fernandez. Lord Shackleton had also spoken to John Everard in the FCO whose views were not clear.

Lord Shackleton had also taken soundings about the likelihood of Mr. Fernandez winning the election. There are apparently some who think he has a good chance but the majority view was that he would fail.

I told Lord Shackleton that I would pass all this on to you and you would seek the Prime Minister's views on whether she wished to see Mr. Fernandez. I told him that for diary reasons 18-20 February looked most unlikely, and Lord Shackleton will pass that message back, without, at the same time, encouraging Mr. Fernandez to believe he would be seen during the 23-27 February period. I said we would try to get back to Lord Shackleton next Monday - his phone numbers are 0590 23373 (home) and 930 1752 (office).

PRCG.

PAUL GRAY

11 February 1988

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10 DOWNING STREET

*File in
cc: Sir P. C. Moore*

From the Principal Private Secretary

25 February 1985

PROPOSED VISIT OF PRESIDENT LUSINCHI OF VENEZUELA

I have seen your letter of 22 February to Robert Armstrong.

When I consulted the Prime Minister about the programme of inward visits, she evinced less than enormous enthusiasm for Lusinchi, Diouf or Biya. If there is a gap which no-one else can take up, I am sure that she would have no objection to President Lusinchi being invited. But she would not want an invitation to him to displace the chance of inviting now or later somebody more important for the UK, e.g. King Fahd.

I am copying this letter to Robert Armstrong and Philip Moore.

FELB

Sir Antony Acland, KCMG., KCVO.

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

F2RB



Sir Antony Acland KCMG KCVO
Permanent Under-Secretary of State

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 February 1985

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO
CABINET OFFICE

My dear Robert,

PROPOSED VISIT OF PRESIDENT LUSINCHI OF VENEZUELA

1. The Royal Visits Committee agreed at its meeting on 11 January that if President Betancur of Colombia was for any reason unable to take up the invitation to visit the UK as a Guest of Government from 13-17 May that slot should be offered to President Lusinchi of Venezuela. We have now heard that President Betancur has postponed his European visit until the autumn and that he will not therefore be able to visit the UK in May.

2. As agreed by the Royal Visits Committee we now propose to offer those dates to President Lusinchi. We have asked the Ambassador in Caracas for his personal assessment of the suitability of the dates proposed and he believes that President Lusinchi would welcome the invitation. Assuming, therefore, that you, Philip Moore and Robin Butler, to whom I am copying this letter, have no objections we will ask the Ambassador as a matter of urgency, in view of the shortage of time, to put the proposal to the Venezuelan Government.

/3.

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3. The postponement of President Betancur's European tour may mean that we will eventually be faced with a proposal that he should visit the UK in the Autumn. The programme of Guest of Government visits this year is getting fairly full with firm proposals from Presidents Mubarak and Nyerere, and the possibility of visits by Presidents Lusinchi and Chun (although the latter is still an uncertain starter). There is also, though in a rather different category, King Fahd. It may not therefore be possible or practical for us to offer President Betancur a full Guest of Government visit and since he is the one who has postponed his plans, it may be better to put him into 1986. We can, however, discuss this if and when we are faced with a proposal from the Colombians.

Yours ever

Antony

Antony Acland

cc: F E R Butler Esq, NO.10 DOWNING STREET ✓
The Rt Hon Sir P Moore GCVO KCB CMG,
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

CONFIDENTIAL

FILE 5H



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 January, 1984

Venezuelan Presidential Inauguration

Thank you for your letter of 13 January. The Prime Minister agrees that Lady Young should attend the Inauguration of the new Venezuelan President on behalf of the British Government and notes that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will be recommending that Lady Young should also represent H.M. The Queen.



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

Lu

010

Prime Minister.



Agree that Lady Young should attend the inauguration of the new President of Venezuela:

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 January 1984

A.C.C. 13/11

Yes MB

Dear John

Venezuelan Presidential Inauguration

The Prime Minister recently sent a message of congratulations to Dr Jaime Lusinchi, the Venezuelan President-elect. He has now invited a British representative to attend his inauguration. The Secretary of State proposes to recommend that Baroness Young represent Her Majesty The Queen and the British Government.

I should be grateful for the Prime Minister's agreement to this proposal.

Yours ever
P F Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

GRS 490

CONFIDENTIAL

FM CARACAS 221307Z DEC 83

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 454 OF 22 DECEMBER

INFO BOGOTA, BRIDGETOWN, GEORGETOWN, HAVANA, PORT OF SPAIN,
UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

AMENDED DISTRIBUTION

29/12

7a
DUB
29/12

CALL ON THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

1. I CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT-ELECT, DR JAIME LUSINCHI ON 20 DECEMBER.

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE

2. I HANDED LUSINCHI THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE (YOUR TELNO 191). THIS WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED. LUSINCHI SPOKE WARMLY OF MRS THATCHER AND SAID HE WOULD REPLY FORMALLY THROUGH THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY IN LONDON.

INAUGURATION

3. LUSINCHI SAID IT WOULD PROBABLY BE ON 2 FEBRUARY AND ORGANISED ON A MODEST SCALE. HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WOULD SOON START DRAWING UP THE INVITATION LISTS

DEBT

4. REFINANCING THE DEBT WOULD BE HIS GOVERNMENT'S FIRST TASK. THE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAD YET TO PROVIDE AD WITH ACCURATE FIGURES. THESE WERE EXPECTED WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK. ON THE PUBLIC DEBT, HE SAID THIS WAS CLEARLY A STATE OBLIGATION. HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PRESENT THE BANKS WITH A PROPOSAL WHICH HE BELIEVED THEY WOULD FIND ATTRACTIVE. VENEZUELA REQUIRED DIFFERENT TREATMENT FROM BRAZIL OR MEXICO, HER ECONOMIC STRUCTURE WAS DIFFERENT. AS FOR THE PRIVATE DEBT, THIS WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE REFINANCED. BUT HIS GOVERNMENT COULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT: IT WOULD HAVE TO BE INVESTIGATED, AND ITS LEGITIMACY ASSESSED.

FOREIGN POLICY

5. LUSINCHI SAID THAT VENEZUELA WOULD HAVE TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE CARIBBEAN, GRENADA HAD BEEN A LESSON. THE SMALL ISLAND STATES WERE VULNERABLE TO SUBVERSION. HE HOPED THAT BRITAIN WOULD KEEP AN EYE ON THE AREA AND THE UNITED STATES TAKE A GREATER INTEREST. ON GUYANA, HE SAID THAT AD WOULD ENJOY BETTER RELATIONS WITH FORBES BURNHAM THAN COPEI HAD DONE. HE EXPRESSED RESPECT FOR PEREZ DE CUELLAR AND CONFIDENCE THAT HIS INVOLVEMENT WOULD HELP RESOLVE THE DISPUTE. IT REQUIRED A PRACTICAL SOLUTION, IN WHICH BOTH SIDES GAVE WAY ON POINTS DURING THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. ON THE FALKLANDS, HE REGARDED THE ARGENTINE INVASION AS A QUOTE FOOLISHNESS UNQUOTE. HE WELCOMED THE RECENT BRITISH/ ARGENTINE EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES.

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/RELATIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN

6. LUSINCHI SAID THAT BRITAIN HAD LONG-STANDING LINKS WITH LATIN AMERICA AND VENEZUELA. HE LOOKED FORWARD TO DIALOGUE WITH BRITAIN, PARTICULARLY ON DEBT, OIL AND GUYANA. HE SPOKE WARMLY OF THE HELP HE HAD HAD DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN FROM TEALE, THE BRITISH ADVERTISING DIRECTOR RESIDENT HERE. I THANKED LUSINCHI FOR HAVING SENT NICOMEDES ZULOAGA TO REPRESENT HIM AT THE INAUGURATION OF MIRANDA HOUSE LAST WEEK AND PRESENTED HIM WITH A SPODE BICENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE PLATE WHICH PLEASED HIM.

COMMENT

7. LUSINCHI SEEMED MORE RELAXED AND IN BETTER CONDITION THAN ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. HE HAS OVERCOME MANY OBSTACLES, INCLUDING ILLEGITIMACY, AND OFFICE MAY YET ADD TO HIS STATURE. OUR RELATIONS SEEM OFF TO A REASONABLE START. HOWEVER, HE WILL PROBABLY EXPECT US TO PRODUCE MORE THAN WE ARE WILLING OR ABLE TO DELIVER OVER THE DISPUTE WITH GUYANA.

CARLESS

MONETARY

SAMD

2
CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT

cc M. P. +
Ora

ALV 014/H	
RECEIVED	POSTAL NO. 10
12 DEC 1983	
DEPT.	POSTAL
INDEX	CC1
5965 - 1	12/12

ps
8. 9/12

UNCLASSIFIED

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. J 207 AB/83**

DD 091245Z CARACAS
GRS 78
UNCLASSIFIED
DESKBY 091245Z
FM FCO 091140Z DEC 83
TO IMMEDIATE CARACAS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 191 OF 9 DECEMBER

(40) YOUR TELNO 436: VENEZUELAN ELECTIONS

1. PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO DR LUSINCHI:
BEGINS: PLEASE ACCEPT MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR VICTORY IN THE RECENT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. I WISH YOU AND YOUR FUTURE GOVERNMENT EVERY SUCCESS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE PRESENT GOOD RELATIONS ENJOYED BY OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE MAINTAINED AND STRENGTHENED IN THE YEARS TO COME. ENDS.

HOWE
NNNN
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MR GIFFARD
MR URE

COPIES TO
BBC EXTERNAL SERVICES,
BUSH HOUSE.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 December 1983

This is to confirm my telephone conversation earlier today when I told you that the Prime Minister has agreed to the dispatch of the following messages:-

- a) To the Spanish Prime Minister (Roger Bone's letter of 8 December).
- b) To the Venezuelan President-elect (your letter of 7 December).
- c) To the new Prime Minister of Turkey and the outgoing Prime Minister (your letter of 8 December).

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I understand that the
new President's party is, broadly
speaking, "social democrat".

London SW1A 2AH

7 December 1983

Dear John,

Agree message:

A.S.C. - 8.
12

Yes
MB -

Message of Congratulations to Venezuelan
President-elect

The opposition candidate in the Venezuelan presidential elections, Dr Jaime Lusinchi has been elected by a wide margin. Caracas telno 435 (copy enclosed) gives the details.

Relations with the outgoing government have never been close and although improving in recent months, they have lacked depth. The change of government offers us the opportunity to develop a better relationship. HM Ambassador in Caracas considers that Lusinchi would respond well to a message from HMG, which would give us a good foundation on which to build in the months to come.

We therefore recommend that the Prime Minister should send a brief message of congratulations. I enclose a telegram to Caracas embodying a draft message.

You had kindly reserved time in the Prime Minister's diary at 4.30 pm on Friday 16 December for a call by the Venezuelan President-elect who was expected to come to London to attend the opening of the new Venezuelan Cultural Centre. We have now heard that Lusinchi will not, after all, be coming to London for this occasion.

Yours ever,

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

GRS 420
RESTRICTED

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DESKBY 060900Z

FM CARACAS 051930Z DEC 83

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 435 OF 5 DECEMBER 1983

INFO IMMEDIATE TO BOGOTA, GEORGETOWN, BRASILIA, WASHINGTON,
UKMIS NEW YORK.

INFO ROUTINE TO UKDEL IMF/IMRD WASHINGTON, PORT OF SPAIN, LA PAZ
QUITO, LIMA, PANAMA CITY, MEXICO CITY, SAN JOSE, TEGUCIGALPA, BERNE
(FOR BIS BUENOS AIRES), BIS GUATEMALA CITY, BELMOPAN, BRIDGETOWN,
KINGSTON, HAVANA, SANTIAGO, MONTEVIDEO, SANTO DOMINGO.

VENEZUELAN ELECTIONS

1. SUMMARY: AD CANDIDATE JAIME LUSINCHI WON THE PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION HERE 4 DECEMBER. BUT THOUGH THE RESULTS WERE MUCH AS
EXPECTED THERE WERE SOME SURPRISES.

2. ACCION DEMOCRATICA (A D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JAIME LUSINCHI
WON THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS HELD HERE ON 4 DECEMBER, BEATING HIS
MAIN RIVAL COPEI CANDIDATE RAFAEL CALDERA BY A WIDE MARGIN.
THE OFFICIAL RESULTS HAVE BEEN DELAYED BY ADMINISTRATIVE
DIFFICULTIES. A RELIABLE UNOFFICIAL COUNT GIVES THE FOLLOWING
RESULTS:

PRESIDENCY	%
JAIME LUSINCHI	53.4
RAFAEL CALDERA	36.0
TEODORO PETKOFF	5.0
J V RANGEL	3.9
JORGE OLAVARRIA	0.9
OTHERS	0.8

UNOFFICIAL CONGRESSIONAL STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RESULTS FROM
THE SAME SOURCE ALSO GIVE A SWEEPING VICTORY FOR AD.

CONGRESS STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES

AD	48.7	ACCION DEMOCRATICA (SOCIAL DEMOCRAT)
COPEI	29.1	(SOCIAL CHRISTIAN)
MAS	6.5	MOVIMIENTO AL SOCIALISMO (SOCIALIST)
OPINA	4.5	(CENTRIST)
MEP	2.3	MOVIMIENTO ELECTORAL DEL PUEBLO (SOCIALIST)
URD	1.8	UNIDAD REPUBLICANA DEMOCRATICA (CENTRIST)
MIN	1.7	MOVIMIENTO DE INTEGRIDAD NACIONAL (RIGHT NATIONALIST)
MIR	1.4	MOVIMIENTO EZQUIERDA REVOLUTINARIA (SOCIALIST)
OTHERS	4.0	

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

3. THESE PERCENTAGES MAY VARY A LITTLE AS THE OFFICIAL RESULTS BECOME KNOWN, BUT WE BELIEVE THERE TO BE NO CHANCE OF SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE. CALDERA CONCEDED DEFEAT EARLY DURING THE NIGHT OF THE 4 DECEMBER, TO BE QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY THE OTHER MAJOR CANDIDATES. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, PRESIDENT HERRERA SENT LUSHINCHIN A CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM. THUS ALTHOUGH HE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE SO DECLARED BY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL UNTIL 6 OR 7 DECEMBER, LUSHINCHIN IS NOW RECOGNISED AS PRESIDENT ELECT.

4. A NUMBER OF POINTS ARISE FROM THESE PRELIMINARY RESULTS:
(A) THE AD VICTORY WAS LARGER THAN EXPECTED. LUSHINCHIN HAS WON A CLEAR MANDATE AS PRESIDENT AND THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE AD WILL ENJOY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN CONGRESS.

(B) THE LEFT DID NOT MAKE THE ANTICIPATED BREAKTHROUGH. PETKOFF AND THE MAS SECURED FEWER VOTES THAN EXPECTED, THE LATTER PERHAPS A GREATER SURPRISE THAN THE FORMER.

(C) THE RELATIVE SUCCESS OF OLAVARRIA'S VEHICLE, OPINA. AS THE PARTY HAS LITTLE PUBLIC PRESENCE AND LESS ORGANISATION THIS REPRESENTS A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF SUPPORT FOR OLAVARRIA AMONGST MAJOR PARTY SUPPORTERS, WHOSE PRESIDENTIAL VOTE WENT TO THEIR FIRST ALLEGIANCE, BUT THEIR CONGRESSIONAL VOTE TO OPINA.

5. THE ELECTORATE VOTED CALMLY- WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF ANY DISTURBANCES - AND SOBERLY.

6. YOUR TELNO 188 OF 5 DECEMBER. MESSAGE FROM HMG TO THE PRESIDENT ELECT. PLEASE SEE MIFT TO F C O ONLY.


CARLESS

STANDARD

S AM D

RESTRICTED

OUT TELEGRAM

	Classification and Caveats UNCLASSIFIED	Precedence/Deskby IMMEDIATE

ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM FCO	6	FM FCO
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE CARACAS
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	YOUR TELNO 436: VENEZUELAN ELECTIONS
	10	1. Please convey the following message from the Prime Minister
	11	to Dr Lusinchi:
	12	BEGINS: Please accept my warmest congratulations on your
	13	victory in the recent presidential elections. I wish you and
	14	your future government every success. I am confident that the
	15	present good relations enjoyed by our two countries will be
	16	maintained and strengthened in the years to come. ENDS.
	17	
	18	HOWE
	19	NNNN
	20	
	21	
///	22	
//	23	
/	24	
	25	

M.T.

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
File number	Dept. Private Office	Distribution Office
Drafted by (Block capitals) P F Ricketts		
Telephone number 233 4641		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	



cc: Mr. Barclay

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 December 1983

POSSIBLE VISIT OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT-ELECT

Thank you for your letter of 28 November. The Prime Minister will be glad to receive the Venezuelan President-Elect, if he comes to London. We will keep 30 minutes on Friday 16 December in the diary for this purpose.

Cancelled
7.12.83

A. J. COLES

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

HU

Possible visit of Venezuelan
President-elect.



10 DOWNING STREET

- 1) Mrs Ryder: to see agreed
- 2) Mr Coley (o. v)

16 December is possible
in the late afternoon,
if the PM agrees to
do this.

DMS

28/11



Prime Minister:

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Agree to receive President-elect of Venezuela briefly on Friday, 16 December (if he comes)?

London SW1A 2AH

28 November 1983

A.J.C. 30/a.

15 minutes would be enough. Better say to whom and allocate 45-50

Dear John,

Possible Visit of Venezuelan President-Elect

The Prime Minister may wish to know that the Venezuelan President-elect may be coming to London to attend the inauguration of a new Venezuelan Cultural Centre on 17 December.

min, put

Arrangements are in the hands of the Venezuelan Embassy and their plans are still rather tentative. We shall probably not know for certain whether the President-elect will be coming until after the elections on 4 December. If he does come, we recommend that the Prime Minister receive him for a brief (15 minute) courtesy call on Friday, 16 December, if this can be fitted in. Sir Geoffrey would also plan to see the President-elect on that day.

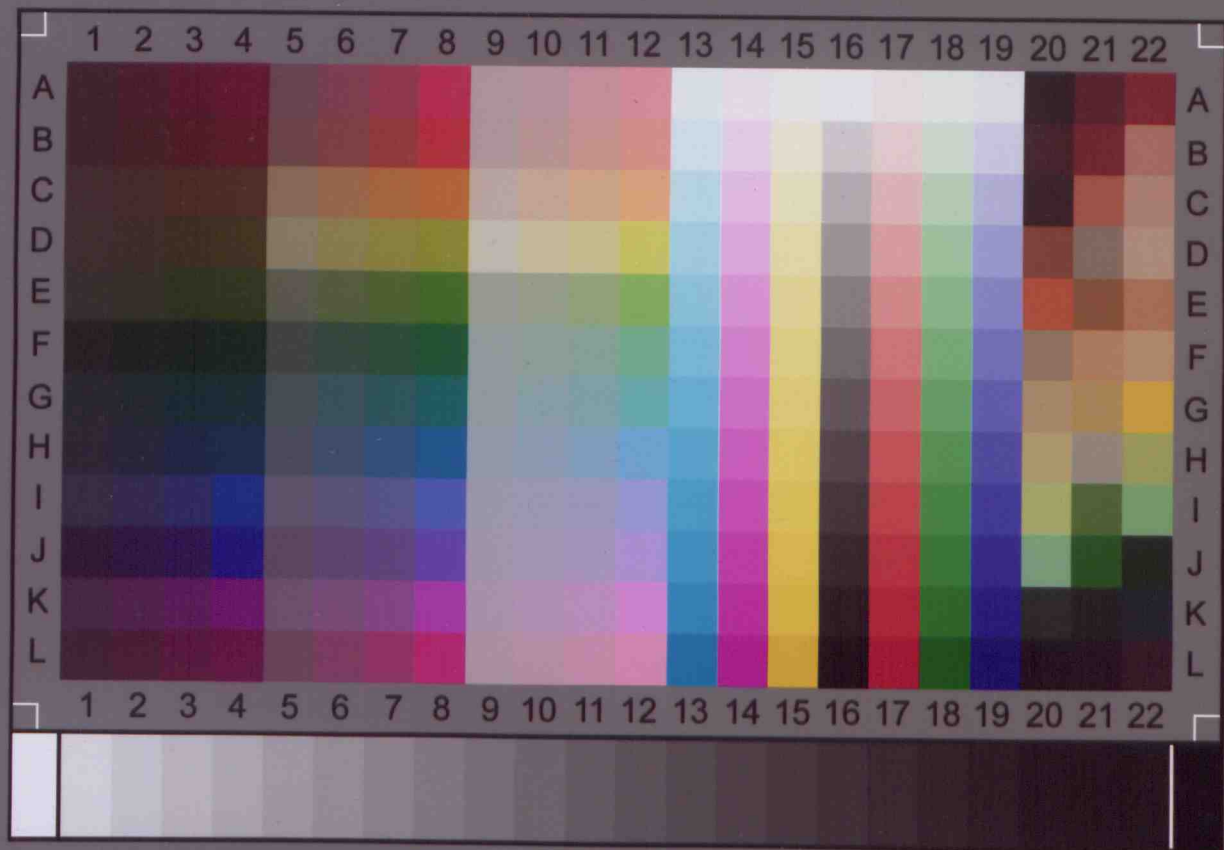
We shall let you know as soon as we know the outcome of the Venezuelan Presidential elections. Both leading candidates have expressed interest in coming to London to attend the ceremony.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street



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