

*SUBJECT* PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. *T43/85*

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Ops.*

OO SANTIAGO

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TO IMMEDIATE SANTIAGO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 76 OF 7 MARCH

INFO PRIORITY CARACAS, PORT OF SPAIN

CHILEAN EARTHQUAKE: MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER

1. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING  
MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET:

BEGINS: I WAS SADDENED TO LEARN OF THE HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE AND  
DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE IN CHILE, AND EXTEND  
MY SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF THE DEAD AND TO THOSE INJURED IN  
THIS TRAGEDY. I HAVE ASKED OUR AMBASSADOR TO LET US KNOW  
IMMEDIATELY IF THERE IS ANY HELP BRITAIN MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE WITH  
WITH RELIEF MEASURES. ENDS.

2. LOCAL SENSITIVITIES MAY PRECLUDE ANY REQUEST FOR  
INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, HOWEVER, ODA  
COULD NORMALLY PROVIDE 10,000 POUNDS STERLING AS CASH GRANT AND  
SUPPLY OF RELIEF ITEMS TO THE VALUE OF 250,000 POUNDS STERLING. WE  
DO NOT WISH TO PRESS OUR ASSISTANCE ON THE CHILEANS IF THEY ARE  
RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT OUTSIDE HELP, BUT WOULD BE VERY WILLING TO HELP  
IF WE CAN

HOWE

NNNN

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

7 March 1985

CHILEAN EARTHQUAKE

Thank you for your letter of 5 March enclosing the draft of a message to the Chilean Government about the recent earthquake.

BF The Prime Minister agrees to the despatch of this message.

(CHARLES POWELL)

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

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 March 1985

*Prime Minister  
Agree proposed  
message re  
Chilean Govt?  
COP  
G3.*

*Dear Charles,*

Chilean Earthquake: Message from the Prime Minister

A major earthquake struck Chile on Sunday evening. By 4 March the official death toll had risen to 124, with over 2,000 injured. To date there is only one British casualty, a long term resident of Chile who is in hospital with a broken leg and ribs. There has also been extensive damage to property.

President Pinochet has taken personal charge of relief efforts, assisted by a high ranking committee. In view of our close relations with Chile, the Prime Minister may wish to send a message of sympathy to President Pinochet (in his capacity as Head of Government rather than as Head of State). I enclose a draft message for delivery by our Embassy in Santiago.

The full extent of the damage is not yet known. But initial reports suggest that it has been fairly extensive in the area of Santiago and Valparaiso. Our Embassy building has also been damaged, although there have been no injuries to staff or their dependents. The Embassy are checking on the well-being of the British community to help Consular Department field enquiries in London.

The Chilean authorities have not applied for international help with disaster relief, but we have followed our normal practice in disasters of this magnitude and asked our Embassy in Santiago for urgent advice on any relief measures which Britain could usefully provide. The normal ODA guidelines permit a cash grant of £10,000, and the supply of relief items, which can be purchased locally if necessary, to a value of £250,000.

*Yours,*

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

*Peter Ricketts*

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street



# OUT TELEGRAM

		<b>Classification and Caveats</b> <b>RESTRICTED</b>	<b>Precedence/Deskby</b> <b>IMMEDIATE</b>
ZCZC	1	ZCZC	
GRS	2	GRS	
CLASS	3	RESTRICTED	
CAVEATS	4		
DESKBY	5		
FM FCO	6	FM FCO	
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE SANTIAGO	
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER	
	9	INFO PRIORITY CARACAS, PORT OF SPAIN	
	10	CHILEAN EARTHQUAKE: MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER	
	11	1. I would be grateful if you could transmit the following	
	12	message from the Prime Minister to President Pinochet:	
	13	BEGINS: I was saddened to learn of the heavy loss of life and	
	14	damage caused by the recent earthquake in Chile, and extend	
	15	my sympathy to the families <del>and friends</del> of the dead and to	
	16	those injured in this tragedy. I have asked our Ambassador to	
	17	let us know immediately if there is any help Britain might be	
	18	able to give with relief measures. ENDS.	
	19	2. Local sensitivities may preclude any request for	
	20	international assistance. For your information, however, ODA	
	21	could normally provide £10,000 as cash grant and supply of relief	
///	22	items to the value of £250,000. We do not wish to press our	
//	23	assistance on the Chileans if they are reluctant to accept	
/	24	outside help, but would <sup>be</sup> <del>very much like to assist if possible.</del> <sup>willing to help if we can.</sup>	
	25		
NNNN ends telegram		BLANK	Catchword HOWE
File number	Dept P/Office	Distribution	
Drafted by (Block capitals) P F Ricketts		Limited SAMD Sir W Harding Mr David Thomas ODA Disaster Relief Unit News Dept Defence Dept PS PS/PUS	
Telephone number			
Authorised for despatch			
Comcen reference	Time of despatch		



# OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification and Caveats <b>RESTRICTED</b>	Page 2
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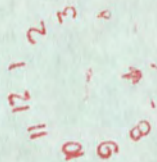
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