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## ***Shameful: the unpresentable felon Lenin Moreno allowed himself to be bribed by the Government of the United Kingdom to expel Julian Assange from the Embassy of Ecuador in London***

Moreno quickly undid most of his predecessor Rafael Correa's policies and aligned himself with the US, signed deals with the International Monetary Fund and exposed his annoyance at Assange's asylum in his country's embassy in London.



Government of the United Kingdom financed campaign with trips, gifts and money for the unpresentable president Lenin Moreno, ministers and officials of his administration to remove Julian Assange from the Embassy of Ecuador in London. In the history of world diplomacy there is no record of a government allowing foreign public forces to enter its legation, considered national territory.

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In a shameful operation of clear violation of human rights devised by the Government of the United Kingdom through flattery, read bribes to the Ecuadorian president and some of his senior officials, the delivery of *the editor of WikiLeaks*, Julian Assange to the British authorities, was achieved.

Indeed, then-Prime Minister Theresa May was told in March 2018 to "*encourage*" the president of Ecuador, the [felon and unpresentable Lenin Moreno Garcés](#), to remove Assange from the Ecuadorian Embassy in London.

May's government spent £21,000 to bring Ecuadorian officials, including defence minister Oswaldo Jarrín, to the UK.



The unpresentable felon Lenin Moreno Garcés.

The British Foreign Secretary prepared an article in the *Daily Mail* about the *WikiLeaks* publisher days after his eviction from the Embassy.

The same Minister gave the President of Ecuador a valuable plate from the gift shop of Buckingham Palace to "*thank*" him for delivering Assange.

National security adviser Richard Moore, now head of MI6, was in Ecuador two weeks before Assange was expelled from the embassy.

The UK government paid £8,330 in November 2018 to bring Ecuador's defence minister, Oswaldo Jarrín, to Britain, two months before Julian Assange's planned seizure of Ecuador's embassy in London, according to what has been found.

It is unusual for Foreign Ministers' trips to the UK to be paid for by the British government, and the week-long visit came after Prime Minister Theresa May was told to "*cheer*" Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno to catch Assange. Expelled from the embassy.

This information comes from UK Foreign Office documents published in [Declassified](#), as well as the recently published diaries of former Foreign Secretary Sir Alan Duncan, who was a key player in Assange's negotiations.



Assange's eviction was planned by Alan Duncan when he was serving as British minister for the Americas.

The documents note that "*the main objective*" of the November 2018 visit was Jarrin's "*participation*" in an annual counterterrorism police exercise that rehearses the government's response to a major terrorist attack.

The exercise is organised by the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism, a part of the Home Office that "*oversees the Security Service [MI5] and counter-terrorism police operations in the UK*".

It is unclear why Ecuador's defense minister was chosen to attend an anti-terror exercise, as the South American nation is not targeted by terrorist groups.

The documents note that "*one of the main meetings*" was with then-Armed Forces Minister Mark Lancaster, after which the Ecuadorian Defense Ministry reported that the two countries were "*strengthening our ties.*"

Jarrín also visited the Foreign Office's "*crisis centre*" and met with the UK's head of Export Finance, Louis Taylor.

#### *Partner of choice*

Two months before Jarrín's visit, in September 2018, the UK government had spent another £12,806 to facilitate a three-day visit by Ecuadorian officials concerned about fighting corruption and money laundering in the country.



British Armed Forces Minister Mark Lancaster (left) meets with Ecuadorian Defense Minister Oswaldo Jarrín in the United Kingdom, November 7, 2018.

The assessment of the trip noted that it helped the London government "*build strong relationships*" and that "*the UK was subsequently recommended as the election partner of the President of the Republic [Lenin Moreno].*"

A Foreign Ministry spokesperson told *Declassified*, "*The Foreign Ministry regularly organizes meetings with ministers and officials from other countries to foster closer engagement with our international partners and help achieve our foreign policy goals.*"

He added: "*As part of this work, some of the costs of these visits are occasionally covered by the Department or by the Post Office. These are carefully considered on a case-by-case basis, and only when resources are available.*"

British security officials also visited Ecuador in preparation for Assange's departure from the embassy, government records show.

In July 2018, Philip Barton, then Director General of Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, flew to Ecuador for "*bilateral meetings with short notice*" with its Foreign Ministry. A week after his return, he travelled to Cheltenham for "*meetings at GCHQ*", the UK's largest intelligence agency, government travel records show.

Then, two weeks before Assange was expelled from the embassy, on March 27, 2019, Britain's then-deputy national security intelligence adviser, Richard Moore, spent £4,469 on a business-class flight to Ecuador, records show.

Moore was appointed head of MI6, Britain's foreign intelligence agency, just over a year later. Barton now heads the Foreign Office.

#### *Delayed expulsion*

The two British-funded trips for Ecuadorian officials came as the government stepped up efforts to get Ecuador to rescind the asylum it had granted Assange in 2012 to avoid persecution by the U.S. government.

Until now, the nature of these negotiations has been kept mostly secret, and freedom of information requests related to Assange's case and the role of British ministers are routinely blocked.

But the diaries of Sir Alan Duncan, who led Assange's negotiations as UK minister for the Americas, shed light on the pressure Britain exerted on Ecuador after Lenin Moreno's new government took power in May 2017.



Assange giving press statements from the main balcony of Ecuador's diplomatic headquarters in London.

Moreno quickly undid most of his predecessor Rafael Correa's policies and aligned himself with the US, signed deals with the International Monetary Fund and exposed his annoyance at Assange's asylum in his country's embassy in London.

In 2016, Duncan met with Correa's foreign minister, Guillaume Long, who was still committed to defending Assange's right to asylum. An exasperated Duncan lamented in his diaries that Long *"defends the supposed human rights of Julian Assange."*

But in March 2018, with Moreno's administration in place, Duncan was more hopeful and had a personal meeting with Prime Minister Theresa May where he *"updated her on Ecuador and Assange."* *"She might want to flatter President Moreno,"* he wrote.

Two weeks later, he added: *"I think I'm almost there with Ecuador to get Julian Assange out of their embassy in London. It has taken months of delicate negotiations, but almost ..."*

Six months later, in September 2018, Duncan had a call with Ecuador's new foreign minister, José Valencia. *"We both want Assange out of the embassy,"* he wrote, *"but the government of Ecuador has yet to take the necessary final step for fear of domestic reaction."*

In the background, negotiations were clearly taking place that are not mentioned in Duncan's diaries. In October 2018, Duncan noted: *"The Assange problem is progressing. Our canals to Ecuador are paving the way to a solution."*

Then, on January 8, 2019, Duncan wrote: *"Sadly, Assange's forced departure from the Ecuadorian embassy has been delayed. Ecuador's government lawyers now say a presidential decree is required that will take at least a week or two."*

Duncan then went to the House of Commons to meet the new Ecuadorian ambassador Jaime Marchán-Romero. *"Their main mission is to get Assange out of the embassy, six years have passed, and although I had been aiming for tomorrow, as I just learned, it will take longer. A little frustrating, but we'll make it,"* Duncan wrote.

After this meeting, he *"updated"* then-Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt on the situation.

### *Operation Pelican*

Duncan's annoyance that Ecuador had delayed Assange's expulsion increased the following month when he wrote, *"Internal meeting over Ecuador, which has been silent about expelling Assange from the embassy despite saying it was going to happen on January 9."*

He added: *"It seems that your Foreign Minister had said it would happen without explicitly telling the President. Assange is not mentally stable; has been defecating in*

bins... *It's a disgusting situation. I insist that we leave a clear paper trail that follows our constant demands that he be evicted.*"

Soon after, he noted that Ecuador's ambassador *"is determined to get Assange out of his embassy, but President Moreno requires one last push to be persuaded to push the button."*

After another meeting with the ambassador a fortnight later, Duncan said, *"We are so close to getting Assange kicked out of the embassy."*



On April 11, 2019, the day Assange was finally arrested by UK police, he wrote: *"Suddenly, it all started: I was told that Assange will leave the [Ecuadorian] embassy today. So I drop everything and head to the Operating Room at the top of the Foreign Office. Operation Pelican is underway, with the appropriate assistance of an officer wearing a tie with the pelican motif."*

In the operating room, Duncan watched a live broadcast when, at 10 a.m., plainclothes police entered the embassy.

*"We expected Assange to be removed shortly after his arrival, but text messages sent to the operating room revealed that he had caused a bit of a commotion and that he had been screaming and bellowing as he made his way towards the ambassador's office, at which point he was forcibly restrained."*

He continued: *"Then, with military precision, six policemen marched to line up on either side of the entrance steps, to form a protection corridor through which Assange was pulled out around 10:20 am."*

Duncan concluded, *"So, work done at last, and we took a commemorative photo of Team Pelican. It had taken many months of patient diplomatic negotiation, and in the end it went smoothly. I do millions of interviews, trying to keep the smile off my face."*



Julian Assange is evicted from the Embassy of Ecuador in London, after the authorization given by the then president Lenin Moreno, who for this he allowed himself to be bribed by the Government of the United Kingdom.

#### *Aftermath*

Two days after Assange's eviction, on April 13, Duncan noted that he *"had put [Daily Mail journalist] Simon Walters in touch with Ambassador Marchan, and thus gave the Daily Mail his scoop on Assange's 'fetid' slum. The images of their living conditions were more than repulsive."*

That day, the *Daily Mail* published an article highlighting the successful operation using photos of the embassy's interior with seemingly incriminating photos of unwashed dishes in the kitchen. *"Revealed, complete sordid horror that led the embassy to finally kick him out,"* read the subtitle of the note.

The article alleged that Assange *"left dirty underpants tucked into the bathroom in a fit of rage"* but provided no evidence. Duncan's accusations about Assange defecating in bins from two months earlier were not included in the article.





Ten days later, Duncan met with Hugo Shorter, head of the Foreign Office's Americas division. *"We both continue to enjoy the successful launch of Julian Assange,"* he said.

Then, in mid-June 2019, with Assange incarcerated in Belmarsh maximum security prison for two months, Duncan threw a party. *"Straight to drinks in my office for the entire Operation Pelican team, those who worked on the removal of Julian Assange from the Ecuadorian embassy,"* he wrote.

*"I gave each of them a signed photo we took in the operating room that day, with a caption that read 'Julian Assange's Brexit task force, April 11, 2019.'"*

Later that month, Duncan made an official trip to Quito, Ecuador's capital, for *"bilateral meetings"* with President Moreno, according to government records. Duncan's diary is empty these days he was in Ecuador.

But the final reference to Assange in his diaries comes two weeks later, on July 15, 2019, when he is back in Ecuador to meet again with President Moreno.

*"Visiting him to thank him is an essential conclusion to the Assange episode and exudes goodwill and warmth. He loves the UK and I gave him a beautiful porcelain plate from the gift shop at Buckingham Palace. Job done,"* he wrote.

Other UK officials also recommitted to Ecuador after Operation Pelican was completed. In May 2019, a month after Ecuador expelled Assange, Commerce Minister George Hollingbery flew to Quito to sign the Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom and the Andean Countries, according to UK government records.

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