

Confidential Filing

Centenary of the Anglo/Tongan Treaty  
of Friendship

UK/Tonga Relations.

TONGA

November 1979

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>3.12.79</del>							
<del>9.2.80</del>							
<del>23.8.91</del>							
3.9.91							
<del>PREM 19/3270</del>							
PREM 19/3570							

SERIES  
CLOSED

**SERIES CLOSED**

**END OF  
CONSERVATIVE  
ADMINISTRATION**

**1 MAY 1997**

FILE

MS

A: / For / Tonga. MS



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

6 November 1991

TONGA

Thank you for your letter of 4 November enclosing a draft letter from the Prime Minister to the Prime Minister of Tonga.

The Prime Minister has signed the letter and I should be grateful if you would arrange for it to be delivered.

(J. S. WALL)

Simon Gass, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

MS

FILE

KW

PRIME MINISTER  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 269/91



SUBJECT  
MASTER  
OPS  
FILED ON:

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

6 November 1991

*Dear Prime Minister,*

I was glad to meet you at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Harare last month. I thought the meeting went well. The Harare Declaration was an important step towards involving the Commonwealth more closely in matters of good government.

You spoke to me about German loans to Tonga for buying two ships, and I have now looked into the matter. Naturally I would like to help you if I can, and I am asking our Ambassador in Bonn to raise the point with the German Government. If we learn anything useful, I will be in touch again.

*Yours Ever,  
John Major*

The Hon Baron Vaea



cc/PC

Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

4 November 1991

London SW1A 2AH

*Dear Stephen,*

Tonga

*Alan*

Thank you for your letters of 20 and 21 October about the Tongan approach to the Prime Minister over the Tongan purchase of ships from Germany.

/ I enclose a background note on the purchase. The Tongans bought the two ships in question in 1978 and 1980, with German loans. They have had the use of them without payment ever since, as the loans had 15 and 10-year grace periods respectively. Nevertheless, we see no harm in being helpful to the Tongans by passing on their concerns to the German Government. If you agree we will instruct our Embassy in Bonn to tell the Germans of the approach to the Prime Minister, so that they can take the matter up direct with the Tongans.

/ I enclose a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to the Tongan Prime Minister.

*S L Gass*  
*[Signature]*

(S L Gass)  
Private Secretary

Stephen Wall Esq  
10 Downing Street

## BACKGROUND

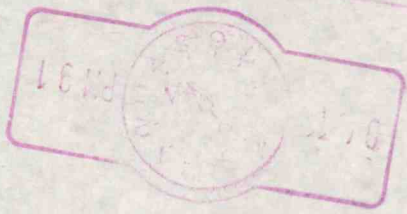
### TONGAN SHIP PURCHASES FROM GERMANY

1. The Shipping Corporation of Polynesia, a joint venture between the Government of Tonga (60%) and the German company Columbus Line (40%) purchased the MV Fuakavenga and the MV Olovaha in 1978 and 1980 respectively, using German loans. The loans had 15 and 10-year grace periods. The first repayment on the Olovaha, US \$210,825, was due last year. We do not know whether it was paid or rolled over into 1991 with an additional US \$240,000. Further payments of US \$240,000 are due annually until 2011. The Fuakavenga repayments, of US \$800,000 per annum are due from 1994.

2. The local press in Tonga has reported that the Shipping Corporation of Polynesia will have difficulty repaying the loans, as the ships are barely covering their running costs. The press reports concluded that the Tongan Government would have to meet the repayments.

3. It seems that the Tongan Government may be trying to get the Germans to convert the loans used to purchase the ships into grants after having had free use of the ships for the last 10 years.

AT1ARE



TONGAN SHIP PURCHASES FROM GERMANY



cc/pe

Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

16 October 1991

London SW1A 2AH

Dear Stephen, file.

Message from the Former Prime Minister of Tonga,  
HRH Prince Tu'Ipelehake, to the Prime Minister

/ Our High Commission in Tonga have forwarded the enclosed message to the Prime Minister from the former Prime Minister of Tonga, HRH Prince Tu'Ipelehake. This is in response to the Prime Minister's farewell message, forwarded to Tonga in August, and does not, therefore, require a reply.

Yours ever,  
Christophe Prentice

(C N R Prentice)  
Private Secretary

Stephen Wall Esq CMG LVO  
10 Downing Street



Message From HRH Prince Tu'ipelehake to the Rt.  
Hon. John Major, MR., Prime Minister, First  
Lord of the Treasury, Minister For the  
Civil Service

"I am exceedingly honoured to have received your warm message of best wishes on my retirement from the post of Prime Minister of Tonga. The ultimate rule of time commands the change over. It is my sincere request that you continue to lend the same level of cooperation to the new Prime Minister of Tonga, the Hon. Baron Vaea, in strengthening the bond of friendship which has long characterised the relation between our two countries and people.

Tu'ipelehake"



PRIME MINISTER  
NUKU'ALOFA, TONGA.

3 September 1991

Honourable John Major,  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom,  
Of Great Britain and Northern Island,  
10 Down Street,  
LONDON.

*1/c PS/Fes 19.9*  
*1/16 19/9*  
*Dag*

My Dear Prime Minister,

I am honoured to receive your warm message of congratulations of my becoming the Prime Minister of Tonga.

I very much look forward to continuing and strengthening the strong and cordial bond of friendship which has categorised the relationship between our two countries and peoples.

I pray God's blessings for the prosperity of our country and people.

Yours sincerely

**SUBJECT**  
**MASTER**  
**OPS**  
**FILED ON:**

*Dag*  
.....  
Baron Vaea  
Prime Minister



**PRIME MINISTER'S**  
**PERSONAL MESSAGE**  
**SERIAL No. T229A.191**

*Handwritten signature*

UNCLASSIFIED  
FM FCO  
TO ROUTINE NUKU'ALOFA  
TELNO 55  
OF 231745Z AUGUST 91

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRINCE TU'IPELEHAKE

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRINCE TU'IPELEHAKE.

2. AS YOU RELINQUISH THE POST OF PRIME MINISTER WHICH YOU HAVE HELD WITH DISTINCTION FOR THE PAST TWENTY YEARS, I WOULD LIKE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO YOUR INFLUENCE ON RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, WHICH HAVE BEEN WARM AND FRIENDLY DURING YOUR TIME IN OFFICE. I SEND YOU MY BEST WISHES FOR A LONG AND HAPPY RETIREMENT.

LENNOX-BOYD

YYYY

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*Handwritten signature*

UNCLASSIFIED  
FM FCO  
TO ROUTINE NUKU'ALOFA  
TELNO 54  
OF 231745Z AUGUST 91

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO BARON VAEA

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO BARON VAEA.

2. I SEND YOU MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON BECOMING PRIME MINISTER OF TONGA. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU, AND FURTHER DEVELOPING THE STRONG AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN OFFICE AND WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY MY BEST WISHES FOR THE CONTINUED WELL-BEING AND PROSPERITY OF THE PEOPLE OF TONGA.

LENNOX-BOYD

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION 1

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NO DISTRIBUTION SPD

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**SUBJECT  
MASTER  
OPS  
FILED ON:**

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T223A/91**



EW

bc PC

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

22 August 1991

**PRIME MINISTER OF TONGA:  
MESSAGES FROM THE PRIME MINISTER**

Thank you for your letter of 22 August with draft messages to Tonga. These are fine and can issue.

(J.S. WALL)

Simon Gass, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

EW

010



*cert*

Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

22 August 1991

London SW1A 2AH

*Dear Stephen,*

Prime Minister of Tonga: Messages from the  
Prime Minister

Our High Commissioner in Tonga has recommended that the Prime Minister send a farewell message to HRH Prince Tu'ipelehake, who has retired as Prime Minister of Tonga after more than 20 years in office. He has also recommended that the Prime Minister send a congratulatory message to the new Prime Minister, Baron Vaea of Houma.

I enclose draft messages.

*Jawoll*  
*S. L. Gass*

(S L Gass)  
Private Secretary

J S Wall Esq  
10 Downing Street

UNCLASSIFIED

ROUTINE

ZCZC

UNCLASSIFIED

FM FCO

TO ROUTINE NUKU'ALOFA

TELNO

OF AUGUST 91

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRINCE TU'IPELEHAKE

1. Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister to Prince Tu'ipelehake.
2. As you relinquish the post of Prime Minister which you have held with distinction for the past twenty years, I would like to pay tribute to your influence on relations between our two countries, which have been warm and friendly during your time in office. I send you my best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

HURD

YYYY

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A R THOMAS

270 3468

UNCLASSIFIED

ROUTINE

ZCZC

UNCLASSIFIED

FM FCO

TO ROUTINE NUKU'ALOFA

TELNO

OF AUGUST 91

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO BARON VAEA

1. Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister to Baron Vaea.

2. I send you my warmest congratulations on becoming Prime Minister of Tonga. I look forward to working with you, and further developing the strong and friendly relations that exist between our two countries. I wish you every success in office and would like to convey my best wishes for the continued well-being and prosperity of the people of Tonga.

HURD

YYYY

MAIN

NO DISTRIBUTION

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A R THOMAS

270 3468





CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO BARON VASA

SUBJECT *UMASOR*  
*OLS*

# OUT TELEGRAM

Classification  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

Caveat

Precedence  
**IMMEDIATE**

ZCZC  
TC  
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AND TO

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4	FM FCO
5	TO IMMEDIATE NUKU'ALOFA
6	TELNO
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9	CYCLONE OFA

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 27/90**

1. Please convey the following message from the Prime Minister to Prince Tu'ipelehake.

BEGINS

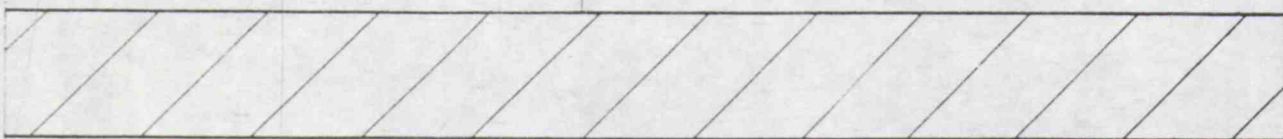
I was very sorry to hear of the devastation caused by Cyclone Ofa in the two northern most islands of Tonga. We will be offering you emergency help through the British High Commissioner. Meanwhile, I send you my best wishes and sympathy.

ENDS

2. SPD received a copy of your telno MODEV 001 from ODA.

HURD

YYYY  
MAIN  
LIMITED  
NEWS DEPT  
ODA



YYYY  
MAIN  
ADDITIONAL  
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Catchword: **APD**

File number	Dept <b>P OFFICE</b>	Drafted by (Block capitals) <b>A R THOMAS</b>	Telephone no <b>3270</b>
Authorised for despatch by:		Initials	Date/time
For COD Use only	Comcen reference	Telegram number	Processed by

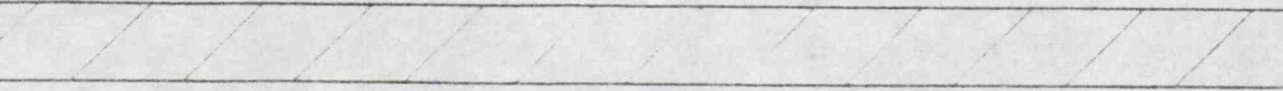
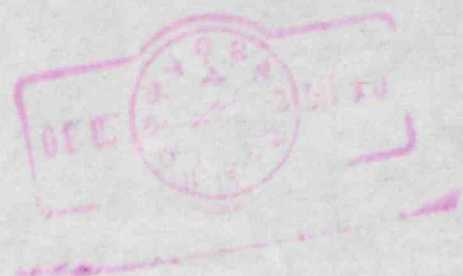
OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification <b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>	Caveat	Precedence <b>IMMEDIATE</b>
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APD  
PS/LORD BRABAZON  
MR GILLMORE  
MR BEAMISH  
  
NNNN



For distribution order see Page      Catchword



file

3 December 1979

Thank you for your letter of 29 November to Michael Alexander, about the Centenary of the Anglo/Tongan Treaty of Friendship.

The Prime Minister is content to acknowledge the acting Prime Minister's message. She would, however, prefer one amendment to the final sentence of the draft, to read:-

"May relations between our two countries long continue in the spirit of the friendship and co-operation which inspired our late Sovereigns a hundred years ago."

M.A. PATTISON

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PRIME MINISTER

Agree a message  
to Tongan  
acting P.M., as  
sidelined at A?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 November 1979



MA 30/11

Yes - as stability  
needed  
not.

Dear Michael,

Centenary of Anglo/Tongan Treaty of Friendship

I enclose a copy of a message to the Prime Minister from the Acting Prime Minister of Tonga marking the centenary on 29 November of the 1879 Treaty of Friendship between Britain and Tonga. This Treaty was superseded by later Treaties of Friendship which have themselves fallen away except for an article of the latest Treaty of 1968 pledging "perpetual peace and friendship" between Britain and Tonga.

There has been an exchange of messages between Lord Carrington and the Tongan Foreign Minister. The occasion is also being marked in Tonga by an official reception given by the Acting Prime Minister and a lunch given by our High Commissioner.

The Prime Minister may wish to acknowledge the Acting Prime Minister's message. I attach a draft telegram containing a text.

The Prime Minister may wish to mention this exchange to the King of Tonga when she sees him on 4 December.

yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street

File No. FPT.026/2

Department SPD

Drafted by SG Cook  
(Block Capitals)

Tel. Extn. 3686

OUTWARD

TELEGRAM

Security Classification UNCLASSIFIED
Precedence PRIORITY
DESKBY .....Z

FOR COMMS. DEPT. USE	Despatched (Date) ..... (Time) .....Z	POSTBY .....Z
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PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) ..... Z (G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix) .....

(Security Class.) UNCLASSIFIED (Caveat) .....  
Privacy marking) .....

(Codeword) ..... (Deskby) ..... Z

TO PRIORITY NUKU'ALOFA Tel. No. ....of .....  
(precedence) (post)

AND TO (precedence/post) .....

AND SAVING TO .....

REPEATED TO (for info) .....

SAVING TO (for info) CANBERRA, WELLINGTON

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- PS/PUS
- SIR A DUFF
- MR CORTAZZI
- MR MURRAY

Copies to:--  
10 Downing Street

[TEXT]

YOUR TELEGRAM NO.63: CENTENARY

1. Following is text of message to Prime Minister from Acting Prime Minister of Tonga:

BEGINS

On the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship between the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Tonga I send on behalf of His Majesty's Government and of the people of Tonga my warmest greetings to you, the people and Government of the United Kingdom.

I take this opportunity to express our sincere hope that the very cordial relations and traditional ties of friendship existing between our two countries and peoples will continue for a long time to come.

ENDS

2. Please convey following reply from Prime Minister:

BEGINS

Thank you for your message on the occasion

.../of

of the 100th Anniversary of the Treaty of  
Friendship between the two Kingdoms.

I warmly return your greetings on this  
historic occasion. May relations between  
our two countries long continue <sup>in the spirit of</sup> ~~to be inspired~~  
~~illuminated by~~ the friendship and cooperation  
which inspired our late Sovereigns a hundred  
years ago.

ENDS

23 NOV 1949  
12 11 20 1949

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN



Subject

Telephone 01-839 3287-8

Telexgrams Tonhicom London S.W.1

Telex 8954094 Tonhi G.

Our Reference B2/1

Your Reference



Tonga High Commission,  
New Zealand House,  
Haymarket,  
London,  
S.W.1.

T 156/797

The Tonga High Commission presents its compliments to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and has the honour to request the assistance of the latter in placing the following message received from the Acting Prime Minister, The Hon Tuita, to the Prime Minister of Great Britain, as follows:-

Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 156/797

My dear Prime Minister,

On the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship between the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Tonga I send on behalf of His Majesty's Government and of the people of Tonga my warmest greetings to you, the people and Government of the United Kingdom.

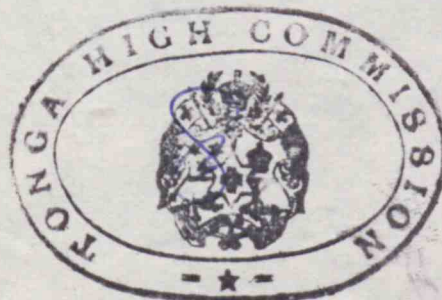
I take this opportunity to express our sincere hope that the very cordial relations and traditional ties of friendship existing between our two countries and peoples will continue for a long time to come.

Yours sincerely,

TUITA  
Acting Prime Minister

The Tonga High Commission avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the assurances of its highest consideration.

LONDON  
28 November 1979



# Grey Scale #13



**A** 1 2 3 4 5 6 **M** 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 **B** 17 18 19



## Colour Chart #13

Blue      Cyan      Green      Yellow

