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10 DOWNING STREET

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FILE TITLE: <i>Relations/Situation</i>		SERIES <i>WESTERN SAMOA</i>
<i>CLOSED</i>		PART: <i>1</i>
PART BEGINS: <i>April 1982</i>	PART ENDS: <i>1 MAY 1997</i>	CAB ONE:

PART

CLOSED

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PREM 19/6 344

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SERIES CLOSED

**END OF
CONSERVATIVE
ADMINISTRATION**

1 MAY 1997



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

31 May 1996

EO ^{*kle*}
I have authorized
by hand.
John
3/6.

Dear John

WESTERN SAMOA

A General Election was held in Western Samoa on 26 April. (It took almost a month for all the votes to be collected and counted.) The ruling Human Rights Protection Party won by a greatly reduced majority and the Honourable Tofilau Eti Alesana was re-elected Prime Minister of the Independent State of Western Samoa.

We recommend that the Prime Minister sends a message of congratulation to Mr Alesana and attach a draft message. Although there is little substance to our bilateral relations, failure to send a message would be noticed. Our High Commission in Wellington agree.

Yours ever,
Sam

(S J Sharpe)
Private Secretary

John Holmes Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE HON
TOFILAU ETI ALESANA, THE NEWLY RE-ELECTED PRIME MINISTER
OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF WESTERN SAMOA

May I send you my congratulations and best wishes on
your re-election as Prime Minister of Western Samoa. I
wish you every success in your new term of office, and
look forward to a continuation of the friendly relations
between our two countries.

UNCLASSIFIED

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 138819

SUBJECT
132260
MDHOAN 6948
MASTER
OPS
FILED ON:

UNCLASSIFIED
FM FCO
TO DESKBY 202100Z WELLINGTON
TELNO 374
OF 201843Z DECEMBER 91

WESTERN SAMOA : CYCLONE VAL : MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE HON TOFILAU ETI
ALESANA, PRIME MINISTER OF WESTERN SAMOA, FROM THE PRIME
MINISTER:
BEGINS

I HAVE LEARNED WITH GREAT SORROW OF THE LOSS OF LIFE AND THE
TRAIL OF DEVASTATION LEFT IN SAVAI'I AND UPOLU BY CYCLONE VAL.
THE SYMPATHY OF EVERYONE IN BRITAIN GOES TO THE PEOPLE AND
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN SAMOA AS YOU FACE THE DAUNTING TASK OF
RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION FOR THE SECOND TIME IN LESS THAN TWO
YEARS.

WE WISH YOU WELL AND WE ARE ANXIOUS TO PLAY OUR PART, IN
COOPERATION WITH OTHERS, IN THE RECOVERY EFFORTS WHICH YOU HAVE
ALREADY SET IN HAND. BESIDES THE INITIAL COMMITMENT OF POUNDS
STERLING 50,000 BY OUR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION, WE
ARE ARRANGING, IN CONSULTATION WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT, AN RAF
FLIGHT CARRYING SUPPLIES AND PEOPLE TO HELP WITH THE TASK OF
RECONSTRUCTION.

YOU WILL BE IN OUR THOUGHTS AND OUR PRAYERS AT THIS TIME OF
ADVERSITY AND IN THE TESTING MONTHS AHEAD.

HURD

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION 21

MAIN 21

MINIMAL
SPD

NEWS D
DISASTER UNIT/ODA

NNNN

PAGE 1
UNCLASSIFIED



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ccPC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 December 1991

WESTERN SAMOA: CYCLONE VAL

Thank you for your letter of 18 December. The message from the Prime Minister to the Prime Minister of Western Samoa is fine and can issue.

(J.S. WALL)

Simon Gass, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

KW



cc PC

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 December 1991

Dear Stephen,

Western Samoa : Cyclone Val

Cyclone Val struck Western Samoa (population 165,000) on 7 December causing 13 deaths and widespread damage. HM The Queen and Prince Philip have sent a message of sympathy to the Head of State. Our High Commissioner to Western Samoa (resident in Wellington) has recommended, and we agree, that the Prime Minister send a message of sympathy to the Western Samoan Prime Minister, as in 1990 when Western Samoa was struck by Cyclone Ofa. I enclose a draft.

The ODA have agreed to make an immediate donation of £50,000 for the supply of emergency relief items. The ODA and the Ministry of Defence are also arranging to send a team of Royal Engineers from Hong Kong later this week to help with the reconstruction work.

Lawson
S L Gass

(S L Gass)
Private Secretary

Stephen Wall Esq
10 Downing Street

UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED

FM

TO DESKBYZ WELLINGTON

TELNO

OF

WESTERN SAMOA : CYCLONE VAL : MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

1. Please pass the following message to the Hon Tofilau Eti Alesana, Prime Minister of Western Samoa, from the Prime Minister:

Begins

I have learned with great sorrow of the loss of life and the trail of devastation left in Savai'i and Upolu by Cyclone Val. The sympathy of everyone in Britain goes to the people and government of Western Samoa as you face the daunting task of recovery and reconstruction for the second time in less than two years.

We wish you well and we are anxious to play our part, in cooperation with others, in the recovery efforts which you have already set in hand. Besides the initial commitment of pounds sterling 50,000 by our Overseas Development Administration, we are arranging, in consultation with your government, an RAF flight carrying supplies and people to help with the task of reconstruction.

You will be in our thoughts and our prayers at this time of adversity and in the testing months ahead.

PO2AAY

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SUBJECT
MASTER
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FILED ON:



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

FILE
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cc/ro

*Western Samoa:
Relations April 82*

THE PRIME MINISTER

14 October 1991

1/2 for Prime Minister,

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 252/91

Thank you for your letter of 9 September in which, among other things, you asked whether Britain could provide bilateral financial assistance to Western Samoa in the health sector.

We are keen to help stable social, economic and political development in the South Pacific states and to that end we give significant financial help through bilateral and multilateral aid agreements. But there are always more demands on our aid programme than we can meet. We have looked carefully to see how the funds at our disposal can best be employed for maximum effect. It is our experience that small bilateral aid programmes and one-off grants are rarely effective and are disproportionately expensive to manage. Other donor countries have found the same.

For this reason we have decided that to make our aid to the South Pacific as effective as possible we must confine our direct bilateral aid to those countries with which we have bilateral aid programmes. Countries not receiving regular United Kingdom bilateral aid, we try to help through our contributions to multilateral programmes. Our contributions to such programmes, particularly our share of the European Development Fund, directly benefit Western Samoa, as do our contributions to a number of regional organisations, including the University of the South Pacific and the technical programmes run by the South Pacific Commission. Our aid at the regional level is increasing, as we

cc

find that an effective way of helping to meet the needs of a wide range of countries and institutions throughout the South Pacific, not simply those countries where we have bilateral programmes.

What those policy decisions mean in practice is that we shall not, I regret, be able to help you directly with your health sector. However, we shall pass the information about your requirements on to some of the private aid organisations in this country. It is possible that one of them may be able to assist.

Yours Sincerely,
John Paine



CEPC

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 October 1991

Dear Stephen,

Western Samoan Prime Minister's Letter to the Prime Minister

Christopher Prentice sent you an advance copy of this letter under cover of his letter of 23 September. We have now received the original, which I enclose.

I enclose a draft letter for the Prime Minister to send to Tofilau Eti replying to the latter's request for financial assistance from HMG.

S. Gass
S. Gass

(S. Gass)

Private Secretary

J S Wall Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

TO: The Hon Tofilau Eti Alesana
Prime Minister of Western Samoa

me

Thank you for your letter of 9 September in which, among other things, you ~~enquired about~~ ^{asked about} Britain ~~providing~~ ^{was} bilateral financial assistance to Western Samoa in the health sector. // We are keen to help stable social economic and political development in the South Pacific states and to that end we give significant financial help through bilateral and multilateral aid agreements. But there are always more demands on our aid programme than we can meet. We have looked carefully to see how the funds at our disposal can best be employed for maximum effect. It is our experience that small bilateral aid programmes and one-off grants are rarely effective and are disproportionately expensive to manage. Other donor countries have found the same.

For this reason we have decided that to make our aid to the South Pacific as effective as possible we must confine our direct bilateral aid to those countries with which we have bilateral aid programmes. Countries not receiving regular United Kingdom bilateral aid we try to help through our contributions to multilateral programmes. Our contributions to such programmes, particularly our share of the European Development Fund, directly benefit Western Samoa, as do our contributions to a number of regional organisations, including the University of the South Pacific and the technical programmes run by the South Pacific Commission. Our aid at the regional level is increasing, as we find that an effective way of helping to meet the needs of a wide range of countries and institutions throughout the South Pacific, not simply those countries where we have bilateral programmes.

What those policy decisions mean in practice is that we shall not, I regret, be able to help you directly with your health sector. However, we shall pass the information about your requirements on to some of the private aid organisations in this country. It is possible that one of them may be able to assist.



u/c

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

23 September 1991

London SW1A 2AH

Dear Stephen, file X

Western Samoa: Letter from Prime Minister Tofilau Eti Alesana

As the original is likely to take some time to reach you, I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the Prime Minister of Western Samoa. The letter includes a request for UK aid for Western Samoa. We are working with the ODA on advice for a reply.

I am copying this letter to Suma Chakrabarti (ODA).

(C N R Prentice)
Private Secretary

J S Wall Esq
10 Downing Street



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T232EP91

Office of the Prime Minister
Apia Western Samoa

September 9, 1991

The Rt Honourable John Major
Prime Minister
White Hall
London
United Kingdom and Great Britain
and Ireland.

SUBJECT

MASTER

OPS

FILED ON:

Western Samoa: Relations
April 80

Dear Prime Minister,

I wish to thank you and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney for bringing to my attention, as conveyed in your letter of 2 August 1991, the important outcome of the Economic Summit you had chaired in London on 15-17 July as well as your subsequent meeting with President Gorbachev.

If I may make reference first to President Gorbachev and the Soviet Union, I want to let you know that even here in the relative remoteness of the Pacific, we had followed with mounting anxiety those dark days of the coup attempt. The restoration of President Gorbachev to office was a joyous moment for us, a sentiment I am sure was shared world-wide. The Summit has mapped out its objective and role in helping the Soviet Union economy and the reforms President Gorbachev is attempting to consolidate. I hope that the forces of democracy would continue to triumph in the Soviet Union to enable the members of the Summit and the free world to effect programmes of action to support the Soviet Union.

A democratic Soviet Union should bring about the stability to world peace that we had only dared hope for. The United Nations should therefore be able to act more decisively and effectively in meeting its objectives, including those priority tasks identified by the Summit, on preventive diplomacy and a new United Nations Registrar of Conventional Arms Transfer.

The Summit's support for the appointment of a United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator is of particular significance to us given our own experience early last year when Western Samoa was hit by a devastating cyclone. The recognition made by the Summit in this area of Disaster Relief arrangements would be especially welcomed by many of our Commonwealth colleagues and indeed by the international community at large.

The environment is a topic of world-wide concern. At the South Pacific Forum in July, we had discussed in depth the preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Environment of Development (UNCED) in Brazil. The commitment made by the Summit to make the conference successful would, I am sure be applauded by all. I look forward to discussing with you and our colleagues at Harare ways to further contribute to the success of the UNCED.

The undertaking by the Summit for a conclusion to the Uruguay Round by this year's end is welcome news. While the Summit noted in particular the enhancing of prospects for developing countries, the impact on economies classified as 'developed' is also quite important. Our prospects in market access would depend very much on the performance of these economies, especially those close to Western Samoa.

A particular problem for Western Samoa which is a vexation for us is the continuing depressed world market prices for our agricultural export commodities. While we are actively committed to diversifying our income earning activities into manufacturing and tourism, the fact remains that agriculture will continue to be the major income and employment activity for the majority of our people; a situation which would continue until we succeed in broadening our economic base.

Our success in non-traditional income sectors would depend very much on our ability to attract investment into manufacturing industries, agriculture processing and tourism development. Political stability and sound economic policy plays a large part in investors confidence and your reference to the importance of good government was very appropriate. We have since the early 1980s instituted macro and micro-economic policies to stabilise our economic performance and to lay the necessary foundation for future economic growth. Important political developments, such as the introduction of universal suffrage, have also taken place which has enabled the majority of our people to be involved and participate in decisions which affect the way in which our country is governed. This stable social, economic and political environment is a necessary precondition to investment; as well as good basic infrastructure such as roads, electricity and water supplies.

In a small island economy like ours this infrastructure could only be provided by the national government. An extensive work programme in this area is being implemented which would result in greater efficiency in the operations of the productive sectors. I believe these development programmes would complement our current incentives schemes to promote private enterprise and induce foreign investment.

My Government is also continually seeking to improve the Health and Education sectors. The benefits of an educated and healthy population remain a cornerstone of Government policy.

The development programmes to bring about the improvements outlined above are however costly and a heavy burden on our limited national resources which are also required to finance other important areas of government. Consequently we have had to seek the assistance of donor countries, institutions and agencies to assist in cofinancing our development efforts. I am therefore pleased to note the emphasis by the Summit of the need to continue to provide aid assistance to support development.

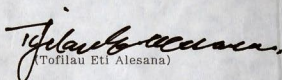
On the subject of aid, I would like to mention in particular the direct assistance to our Health Service that the United Kingdom had kindly provided in the past. We had found that very useful and would welcome the revival of this assistance. For Western Samoa it is not practical for us to maintain a health service capable of treating all types of medical conditions. We refer patients that cannot be treated locally to hospitals overseas. This is a costly arrangement but under the present circumstances is the most practical option. The efficiency of diagnosis in Western Samoa is therefore most important to this arrangement as we cannot afford the costs of unnecessary referrals. The provision of equipment to improve the capability of our health system to properly diagnose medical treatment before referrals would be the type of assistance that I feel would be most useful if agreeable to your government. While the specific details would be discussed later at officials level, the type of equipment and technical assistance envisaged would be in the vicinity of 100,000 Sterling.

The concern of the Summit for the problems of the developing countries and your own personal interest with the debt burden in particular, is an area of appropriate focus. The decision by the Summit for additional relief to the poorest and most heavily indebted countries is a most welcomed development. The Commonwealth Finance Ministers meeting early next month would undoubtedly discuss further, with the input from the United Kingdom delegation, this important issue.

Thank you again for bringing the above matters to my attention and I look forward to the opportunity of meeting you in Harare.

With my personal best regards.

Yours sincerely,


(Tofilau Eti Alesana)

SUBJECT & MASTER -

OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification UNCLASSIFIED	Caveat	Precedence IMMEDIATE
ZCZC	1	ZCZC		
TC	2	UNCLASSIFIED	9/2	
CAVEAT	3			PRIME MINISTER'S
FM	4	FM FCO		PERSONAL MESSAGE
TO	5	TO IMMEDIATE WELLINGTON		SERIAL No. T25/90
TELNO	6	TELNO		
OF	7	OF FEB 90		
AND TO	8			
	9	YOUR TELNO 73: WESTERN SAMOA: CYCLONE OFA		
	10			
	11	1. Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister		
	12	to the Hon Tofilau Eti.		
	13	BEGINS		
	14	I was very sorry to hear of the devastation caused in Western		
	15	Samoa by Cyclone Ofa. I know that the damage is extensive. The		
	16	British High Commissioner will be getting in touch with you to		
	17	offer emergency help. I sympathise with you over this major		
	18	disaster, and my heart goes out to the families of those who		
	19	lost their lives.		
	20	ENDS		
	21	2. We are sending the text of the message to the Western		
	22	Samoan Embassy in Brussels.		
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	24	HURD		
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///	26			
//	27	YYYY		
/	28	MAIN		
	29	LIMITED		
		NEWS		
YYYY		File number	Dept SPD	Catchword: NEWS
MAIN			Drafted by (Block capitals) A R THOMAS	Telephone no 3270
ADDITIONAL		Authorised for despatch by	Initials	Date/time
NNNN		For COD use only	Comcon reference	Telegram number
				Processed by

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification UNCLASSIFIED	Caveat	Precedence IMMEDIATE
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2	NEWS DEPT		
3	ODA		
4	APD		
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For distribution order see Page		Catchword:	



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

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cpc
c: ofa

From the Private Secretary

9 February 1990

CYCLONE OFA

Thank you for your letter of 9 February about the damage caused by Cyclone Ofa in Western Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu. I am sure the Prime Minister would wish to send messages to the Government's concerned and the text enclosed with your letter may issue.

Charles Powell

Bob Peirce Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

M



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 February 1990

Dea Charles

Cyclone Ofa: Western Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu

/ Cyclone Ofa hit Western Samoa earlier this week causing three deaths and widespread damage, valued at \$200 million. Food crops have been badly affected. Our High Commissioner to Western Samoa (resident in Wellington) has recommend that the Prime Minister send a message of sympathy to the Western Samoan Prime Minister. I enclose a suggested text in the form of a telegram to Wellington.

The ODA are offering Western Samoa two alternatives for immediate help: either £50,000 for immediate emergency supplies or the possibility, subject to confirmation, of the use of a Royal Engineer Team to help restore essential services.

/ The three northern most islands of Tonga and the island state of Tuvalu have also been damaged by Cyclone Ofa but much less severely. The Prime Minister might also send messages to the Tongan and Tuvalu Prime Ministers. I enclose suggested texts for these messages. The ODA are offering Tonga £25,000 for emergency relief. They are working on what could be offered to Tuvalu.

Tongans over

R N Peirce

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

SUBJECT *cc MASTER*

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FAW 020/11

22 MAY 1989

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FM FCO
TO PRIORITY WELLINGTON
TELNO 160
OF 181535Z MAY 89

WESTERN SAMOA: CENTENARY OF THE TREATY OF BERLIN

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE
HON TOFILAU ETI ALESANA WHEN YOU VISIT APIA FOR THE CENTENARY
CELEBRATIONS:

BEGINS

QUOTE ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENARY OF
THE TREATY OF BERLIN I SEND YOU, THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE PEOPLE
OF WESTERN SAMOA MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES.

UNQUOTE.

ENDS

*cf. news Dept.
13/5/1985.*

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28

MAIN 27

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PROTOCOL DEPT

PS
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ADDITIONAL 1

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 7948/89**

NNNN

PAGE 1
RESTRICTED



file

ech

bc PC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

11 May 1989

WESTERN SAMOA

Thank you for your letter of 11 May recommending that the Prime Minister should send a message to the Prime Minister of Western Samoa on the Centenary of the Treaty of Berlin. I am sure that she would be happy to do so, and the draft enclosed with your letter may issue.

(CHARLES POWELL)

R.N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

2)



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 May 1989

is
Dear Charles

**Western Samoa: Centenary of the Treaty
of Berlin, June 1989**

On 1 June, Western Samoa will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the signature by the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States of the Treaty of Berlin. The Treaty provided an agreed basis for the supervision by the three signatory Powers of the affairs of Samoa and granted Samoa a measure of autonomy. The Government of Samoa has decided to celebrate the anniversary. The United States will be represented at the celebrations by President Bush's sister. HMG will be represented by our non-resident High Commissioner, Mr Byatt (High Commissioner in Wellington).

The Foreign Secretary recommends that the Prime Minister should send a message of congratulations to the Prime Minister of Western Samoa, the Hon Tofilau Eti Alesana. I attach a draft telegram to Wellington.

We will also be recommending that HM The Queen should include a reference to the Centenary of the Treaty in her annual message on the occasion of Western Samoa's Independence Day, which also falls in June.

Yours ever
R N Peirce

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

YFB 4

Classification	Caveat	Precedence
RESTRICTED		PRIORITY
TC	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	RESTRICTED
CAVEAT	PRIVACY MARKING/RESTRICTIVE PREFIX	PRIORITY
FM	FM (post)	
TO	TO (precedence/post)	TO PRIORITY WELLINGTON
TELNO	TELNO/TELELETTER	
OF	OF (Time of origin)	Z (Month) (Year)
AND TO	AND TO (precedence/post)	
	AND TO SAVING	
INFO	INFO (precedence/post)	
	INFO SAVING	

Distribution:-

PS/No.10

PS

PS/Lord Glen-
arthur

SPD

Protocol Dept.

WESTERN SAMOA: CENTENARY OF THE TREATY OF BERLIN

1. Please pass following message from the Prime Minister to The Hon Tofilau Eti Alesana when you visit Apia for the centenary celebrations:

BEGINS

Quote On the occasion of the celebration of the centenary of the Treaty of Berlin I send you, the government, and the people of Western Samoa my warmest congratulations and best wishes.

Unquote.

ENDS

Catchword:

File number	Department	Drafted by: (block capitals)	Telephone no
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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

CONFIDENTIAL

File mem



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

2 February 1989

VISIT TO LONDON OF THE PRIME MINISTER
OF WESTERN SAMOA

Thank you for your letter of 1 February about the visit to London of the Prime Minister of Western Samoa. I agree that it will not be feasible for the Prime Minister to see him on this occasion.

CHARLES POWELL

R. N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

DT

CONFIDENTIAL

cc/c (2)



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 February 1989

Prime Minister

You will want to be aware of this. I am afraid you really cannot see him

Dear Andrew

Visit to London by the Prime Minister of Western Samoa, The Hon Tofilau Eti Alesana, 24-26 April 1989

The Prime Minister will wish to be aware of the visit to London in April of the Prime Minister of Western Samoa, Mr Tofilau Eti Alesana, who has been invited as an FCO sponsored visitor. The Prime Minister may remember meeting him at CHOGM in New Delhi in 1983.

Although the Government of Western Samoa have asked for an appointment with the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary feels unable to recommend a call on this occasion, as the Prime Minister's diary is already very full in late April. The Foreign Secretary will see Mr Tofilau Eti Alesana. Lord Glenarthur will host an official luncheon for him.

Yours ever

Roche

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. 82a11/88

(13)

Filed on
WESTERN SAMOA :
Relations April 82.

SUBJECT
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UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED
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TO ROUTINE WELLINGTON
TELNO 184
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RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 52		
8 JUN 1988		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

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MF 3/5

FROM SPD

- ① YOUR TELNO 169: MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER OF WESTERN SAMOA
1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO THE HON
TOFILAU ETI ALESANA.
QUOTE: I WAS PLEASSED TO HEAR OF YOUR RETURN AS PRIME MINISTER OF
WESTERN SAMOA AND AM GLAD THAT WE SHALL AGAIN BE ABLE TO WORK
TOGETHER TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE LINKS BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES. UNQUOTE.

HOWE

YYYY

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la
J. Peirce

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 May, 1988.

MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF WESTERN SAMOA

Thank you for your letter of 23 May covering a draft message from the Prime Minister to the Prime Minister of Western Samoa. I think the Prime Minister would be happy for this to issue.

(C.D. Powell)

R.N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

ECU



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 May 1988

Dear Charles

Message to the Prime Minister of Western Samoa

Following a period of uncertainty after the elections in Western Samoa in February, the new Prime Minister, The Hon Tofilau Eti Alesana, now seems sufficiently well-established to justify a message of congratulations.

The Foreign Secretary recommends therefore that the Prime Minister should send a message in the terms of the attached draft telegram.

I attach a background note on Western Samoa and Tofilau Eti's curriculum vitae. He attended CHOGM in 1985, although we have no record of his then meeting the Prime Minister.

Tomson
B. N. Peirce
(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

YFB 4

	Classification	Caveat	Precedence
	UNCLASSIFIED		
TC	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	UNCLASSIFIED	
CAVEAT	PRIVACY MARKING/RESTRICTIVE PREFIX		
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AND TO	AND TO (precedence/post)		
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 PS/LD GLENARTHUR
 MR MCLAREN
 ADDITIONAL
 PS/NO 10

YOUR TELNO 169: MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER OF WESTERN SAMOA

1. Please pass following message from Prime Minister to The Hon Tofilau Eti Alesana.
 Quote: I was pleased to hear of your return as Prime Minister of Western Samoa and am glad that we shall again be able to work together to maintain and strengthen the links between our ^{two} respective countries.
 Unquote.

Catchword:

File number

Department

Drafted by: (block capitals)

Telephone no

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

HON. TOFILAU ETI ALESANA, PRIME MINISTER, WESTERN SAMOA

Born 4 June 1924 Vaitogi, American Samoa.

Educated Poya High School, Tutuila and Maluafofu School, Apia.

MP 1957 to 1961.

Member Public Service Commission 1961 to 1964, served as President of Faaraleleaga Wharf Committee.

Re-entered politics 1967 and apart from 1973-76 has held his seat ever since.

Minister of Health 1957-61 and 1967-70.

Member Constitutional Committee 1958-60.

Member Legislative Assembly Bills Committee 1970-72.

1975 employed by Lands and Titles Committee and chaired a Committee Investigating the Salaries of Members of Parliament.

Chaired Commission of Enquiry into Public Service Salaries during Public Service Strike in 1981.

Appointed Deputy Prime Minister under Va'ai Kolone in April 1982 and also took portfolios of Finance, Customs and Inland Revenue.

When Efi succeeded Va'ai (whose election was ruled invalid) in September 1982 ~~Eti~~ refused position of Minister of Finance.

He became Prime Minister on 30 December 1982 following the defeat in a division of Efi's Government. Re-elected in a landslide election in January 1985, by May his Government was in trouble and he found himself deprived of a majority in the Fono. A motion of no confidence was avoided by adjournment of the House in July. Tofilau advised the Head of State to dissolve the House so that elections could take place but he declined. The Government soldiered on until Tofilau reluctantly handed over control to Va'ai Kalone in December 1985.

Speaks English well and has represented Western Samoa overseas at numerous conferences.

Married with 14 children.

Keen on cricket, rugby and boxing and an avid reader.

SPDAFW

UNCLASSIFIED

WESTERN SAMOA

1. Western Samoa, a small Pacific island country with a population of around 163,000, is located approximately 1,600 miles northeast of New Zealand and has a total land surface area of 2,935 square kilometres. On receiving independence from New Zealand in 1962 it adopted a constitution proclaiming the nation to be an independent and sovereign state based on "Christian principles, and Samoan customs and tradition." The Constitution established a parliamentary democracy on the Westminster model but with certain concession to Samoan cultural practices. It provides for a Samoan head of state, a unicameral legislature, an independent judiciary, protection of Samoan land and traditional titles, and guarantees of fundamental rights and freedoms.

2. Executive authority is vested in a head of state, with the Government administered by a cabinet consisting of a prime minister and eight ministers chosen by the prime minister. All legislation passed by the legislative assembly needs the approval of the Head of State before it becomes law. The present Head of State, Malietoa Tanumafili II, holds the position for life. His successors will be elected by the legislative assembly and not hereditary.

3. The culture of Western Samoa is Polynesian but uniquely Samoan. Samoans believe that all Polynesian people originated from Samoa. Traditional authority is vested in "matai", village chiefs or leaders of an extended family elected by consensus of the clan. Ownership of the land is legally vested in the matai. It is the matai's responsibility to direct the economic, social, and political affairs of the aiga. There are 362 villages in Western Samoa with a total of over 12,000 matai. Each village is governed by a Fono or council of matai.

4. The economy is agricultural with many of the problems of a developing country. Western Samoa is heavily dependent on foreign aid, particularly from New Zealand.

5. Power in Western Samoa is vested in the Prime Minister and the Legislative Assembly. Under the Constitution, the Assembly is elected every 3 years. Forty-five of its members are elected by the 12,000 village chiefs (matai), and the other 2 seats are filled by elections among those citizens who are not Samoan by heritage. The system is regarded as democratic, in that the matai traditionally consult with their extended families before making decisions. The system, though conservative, does allow for change. The Matai have well-defined responsibilities which, if not met, can result in removal.

6. Western Samoa has the rudiments of political parties. The most prominent political organisation, the Human Rights Protection Party (HRPP), was found in 1982. The political process in Western Samoa revolves around personality rather than party. Elections have tended to occur more frequently than the prescribed 3-year cycle, primarily as a result of votes of no confidence.

7. Western Samoa, which in 1987 celebrated 25 years of independence (1 ~~January~~^{June} 1962) is a member of the UN, the Commonwealth, the IMF, IBRD, South Pacific Commission and SP Forum. It successfully hosted the latest South Pacific Forum meeting in Apia in May 1987.

British Interests

8. British interests in Western Samoa are marginal. But there is a fund of goodwill towards the United Kingdom, nurtured by routine visits by staff from the High Commission in Wellington, small gifts and help with training of students and police. Western Samoa also benefits from its share of a substantial British contribution to development aid to the Pacific countries via the Lomé Convention. It was a matter for regret that in 1986 Western Samoa switched its vote at UN from abstention on Falklands to a vote against us.

9. The non-resident British High Commissioner resides at Wellington, New Zealand. The present High Commissioner is Mr Robin Byatt CMG.



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL NO. 59444/85

RESTRICTED

TOP COPY (8)

8663 - 1

PP WELLINGTON

GRS 84

RESTRICTED

FM FCO

TO PRIORITY WELLINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 80 OF 29 MARCH

YOUR TELNO 87: WESTERN SAMOA ELECTION

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
TO THE HON TOPILAU ETI ALESANA:

BEGINS: I OFFER YOU MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS ON THE RENEWAL OF
YOUR TERM OF OFFICE AS PRIME MINISTER OF WESTERN SAMOA. I LOOK
FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK WITH YOU AND TO MAINTAINING OUR
EXCELLENT RELATIONS.

ENDS

HOWE

NNNN

DISTRIBUTION

LIMITED

SPD

NEWS D

PS/LADY YOUNG

DR WILSON

PPW 014/1

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 52	
- 2 APR 1985	
DESK OFFICER	REGISTRY
INDEX	PA
	Action Taken

1

RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Agree message? Prime Minister
CDP

28 March 1985

Message, as amended,
passed back to Pro.
M&A 24/3

Dear Charles,

Yes Mr

Western Samoa Elections

In the election held on 18 February in Western Samoa the governing Human Rights Protection Party was returned to power. On 19 March the outgoing Prime Minister, the Hon Tofilau Eti Alesana, was re-elected to office.

A message of congratulation was sent by the Prime Minister following the previous election in 1983. We recommend that the Prime Minister should act similarly on this occasion. Accordingly, I attach a draft telegram to Wellington.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats RESTRICTED	Precedence/Deskby PRIORITY
ZCZC	1	ZCZC	
GRS	2	GRS	
CLASS	3	RESTRICTED	
CAVEATS	4		
DESKBY	5		
FM FCO	6	FM FCO	
PRE/ADD	7	TO PRIORITY WELLINGTON	
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER	
	9	YOUR TELNO 87: WESTERN SAMOA ELECTION	
	10	1. Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister	
	11	to the Hon Tofilau Eti Alesana:	
	12	BEGINS: I offer you my warm congratulations on the renewal of	
	13	your term of office as Prime Minister of Western Samoa. I look	
	14	forward to continuing to work with you ^{and to} for the maintaining of our	
	15	the excellent relationship hip which exists between our countries.	
	16	ENDS.	
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File number	Dept	Distribution Limited SPD News Dept PS/Lady Young Dr Wilson
Drafted by (Block capitals)		
Telephone number		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

~~SUBJECT~~

cc Marks

9

Fw 014/1		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 52		
18 JAN 1983		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken
	Ext 11	

Ops. PRIME MINISTER'S
 PERSONAL MESSAGE
 SERIAL No. 5/83

UNCLASSIFIED

47629 - 2

PP WELLINGTON

GRS 128
 UNCLASSIFIED
 FM FCO 171450Z JAN 83
 TO PRIORITY WELLINGTON
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 6 OF 17 JAN 1983
 WESTERN SAMOA

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATION FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE HON TOFILAU ETI ALESANA, PRIME MINISTER OF WESTERN SAMOA AND FROM ME TO THE HON LAUOPO METI, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF WESTERN SAMOA.

BEGINS:

A. MAY I EXTEND TO YOU MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT TO THE OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER OF WESTERN SAMOA.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN THE FUTURE, CONTINUING THE EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

B. PLEASE ACCEPT MY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU TO MAINTAIN THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

ENDS
 PYM

DISTRIBUTION
 MINIMAL
 SPD
 PCD



W. Scumegu
FILE

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 January, 1983

WESTERN SAMOA: CHANGE OF PRIME MINISTER

Thank you for your letter of 14 January.

The Prime Minister agrees that the proposed message from her to Mr. Tupuola Efi may be despatched.

Bk /

SECRET

J.E. Holmes, Esq.,

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

98

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

①



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 January, 1983

Prime Minister

Yes message overleaf?

Dear John,

Yes

A.C. 14/1

Western Samoa: Change of Prime Minister

The Hon Tofilau Eti was sworn in as Prime Minister of Western Samoa on 30 December following the resignation of the former Prime Minister, Tupuola Efi, after losing a division on 20 December.

Tofilau Eti is Western Samoa's third Prime Minister since the inconclusive elections in February 1982. However, his prospects for a substantive Ministry seem rather better than either of his predecessors'. He is an able and respected politician, and his position has been consolidated by recent by-election gains, including that of Va'ai Kolone, a former Prime Minister, who has apparently given Tofilau Eti's appointment his full support. I enclose a personality note on Tofilau Eti.

I enclose a draft message of congratulation from the Prime Minister, in the form of a telegram to Wellington.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

TELEGRAM

Classification and Levels	Precedence/Deskby
UNCLASSIFIED	PRIORITY

ZCZC
GRS
CLASS
CAVEATS
DESKBY
FM FCO
PRE/ADD
TEL NO

1 ZCZC
2 GRS
3 UNCLASSIFIED
4
5
6 FM FCO JANUARY 1983
7 TO PRIORITY WELLINGTON
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER
9 WESTERN SAMOA
10 1. Please pass the following messages of congratulation
11 from the Prime Minister to the Hon Tofilau Eti Alesana, Prime
12 Minister of ^{Western} Samoa and from me to the Hon Lauofo Meti, Minister
13 for Foreign Affairs of Western Samoa.
14 BEGINS:
15 A. May I extend to you my warm congratulations on your
16 appointment to the Office of Prime Minister of Western Samoa.
17 I look forward to working with you in the future,
18 continuing the excellent relationship which exists between
19 our two countries.
20
21 B. Please accept my congratulations on your appointment as
22 Minister for Foreign Affairs. I look forward to working with
23 you to maintain the close relationship which exists between
24 our two countries.
25 ENDS

///
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/

RNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
File number	Dept Private Dept	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals) JOHN HOLMES		
Telephone number 233 4641		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

CWT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats

PRIORITY

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NNNN

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NNNN ends
telegram

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Catchword

SUBJECT
File No.(Usual confirmation tel. n.A. acceptable
as PM's reply, despatched
from HMAS)

Security Classification

UNCLASSIFIED

Department

OUTWARD

Drafted by

TELEGRAM

(Block Capitals)

Precedence

IMMEDIATE

Tel. Extn.

DESK BY

Western Samoa Z

FOR
COMMS. DEPT.
USE

Despatched

(Date)

POST BY

Z

(Time)

Z

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin)

Z(G.M.T.)

(Restrictive Prefix)

(Security Class.)

(Caveat)

(Privacy marking)

(Codeword)

(Desk by)

Z

TO

IMMEDIATE

WELLINGTON

Tel. No.

of

(precedence)

(post)

AND TO (precedence/post)

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

AND TO SAVING

SERIAL No.

182 A/82

INFO FCO

INFO SAVING

Distribution:—

[TEXT]

Please deliver the following message from the Prime Minister to the Prime Minister of Western Samoa:

May I offer you my warmest congratulations on your assuming again the Office of Prime Minister of Western Samoa. Our two countries enjoy close relations and I look forward to working with you to maintain the links between us. I extend to you and the people of Western Samoa my best wishes for the prosperity of your country.

Margaret Thatcher

Ends

Copies to:—

RESTRICTED

Western Samoa



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 September 1982

Prime Minister:

Agree to send message?

Dear Tim,

JH

Yes

Western Samoa: Change of Prime Minister

The Hon Tupuola Efi has been sworn in as Prime Minister of Western Samoa, a post he had previously held between 1976 and the elections earlier this year. This change follows a Western Samoa Supreme Court decision declaring as void the election of Va'ai Kolone, Prime Minister since last April.

Tupuola's position is far from secure: with Va'ai's departure he should have a bare majority in Parliament, but he may lose even this if forthcoming by-elections go against him. He does, however, have a possible breathing-space, in that he need not recall the Assembly until March 1983, and he might be able to consolidate his position in the meantime. In these circumstances we consider that a message of congratulations from the Prime Minister along the lines of the attached draft would be appropriate.

In order that such a message should not be too long delayed, it would be helpful if this could go in the box for the Prime Minister's party leaving today. The message could then be telegraphed to Wellington, for onward transmission, from Peking or Hong Kong.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

T Flesher Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

DRAFT MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
TO THE HON TUPUOLA EFI, PRIME MINISTER OF WESTERN SAMOA

May I offer you my warmest congratulations on your
assuming again the Office of Prime Minister of Western
Samoa. Our two countries enjoy close relations and I look
forward to working with you to maintain the links between
us. I extend to you and the people of Western Samoa my
best wishes for the prosperity of your country.

mt

206-332

112123
9 8 7 6 5

SUBJECT

Western Samoa

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 858/82



cc: fco

HL

T 858/82

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 April 1982

Dear Prime Minister,

Please accept my warm congratulations
on your election as Prime Minister.

I much look forward to working with
you and to furthering the excellent relations
that exist between our two countries.

Yours sincerely
Va'ai Kolone

The Honourable Va'ai Kolone

289



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 April, 1982

Dear John,

Western Samoa

We spoke about the election of the Prime Minister. I understand that there was a General Election on 27 February which returned to the Assembly those of its 45 members who are subject to direct election (the remainder are appointed Chiefs). The Assembly then met to elect a Prime Minister but it took some time for a result to be achieved. The Prime Minister was in fact elected by a vote of 23 to 22 on 13 April. The Prime Minister is, therefore, elected not appointed.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 April 1982

Please type letter

MR 22/4

Dear John,

Message of Congratulations to New Prime Minister of Western Samoa

In the follow-up to the General Election Mr Va'ai Kolone has been elected as Prime Minister. The High Commissioner in Wellington has recommended that the Prime Minister should send a letter of congratulations. I attach a draft text which we suggest should go in the form of a letter. In order to ensure that a message arrived in good time we have already asked the local New Zealand High Commissioner to deliver an informal oral message of congratulations.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified

Hon Va'ai Kolone
Prime Minister's Office
APIA
Western Samoa

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Dear Prime Minister,

Please accept my warm congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister.

I much look forward to working with you and to furthering the excellent relations that exist between our two countries.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher.

Enclosures—flag(s).....