

SUBJECT

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FM FCO 181426Z JUNE 79

TO IMMEDIATE KUALA LUMPUR

TELEGRAM NUMBER 146 OF 18 JUNE

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS GENEVA UKMIS NEW YORK WASHINGTON SINGAPORE

BANGKOK JAKARTA MANILA HONG KONG

PRIORITY TO MOSCOW TOKYO PARIS BONN

ROUTINE OTTAWA CANBERRA WELLINGTON BRUSSELS THE HAGUE LUXEMBOURG

DUBLIN ROME COPENHAGEN DELHI

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 27A/79 T

*Endo ma  
6/21  
1979*

VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO DATUK HUSSEIN ONN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BEGINS

I REALISE THE HARDSHIPS AND DIFFICULTIES MALAYSIA FACES IN THE CURRENT CRISIS OVER REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM AND KNOW WELL THE NEED TO TAKE EFFECTIVE EARLY ACTION TO STEM THE FLOW AND FORCE THE CALLOUS VIETNAMESE REGIME TO RECOGNISE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND IMPROVE THE LOT OF ITS UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE. TO THIS END I HAVE, AS YOU KNOW, APPEALED TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL TO CALL AN EARLY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO FIND IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THIS CRISIS. I AM REPEATING MY REQUEST IN A FURTHER MESSAGE I AM SENDING TODAY. WE MUST DO ALL WE CAN TO PUT MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON VIETNAM AND TO PERSUADE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE TO SHARE THE BURDENS WHICH VIETNAMESE POLICIES ARE THROWING ON THE REGION. MY GOVERNMENT ARE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES BY DIPLOMATIC ACTION AND PUBLICITY.

WE ARE, OF COURSE, DIRECTLY INVOLVED THROUGH HONG KONG. THERE ARE ALREADY OVER 54,000 BOAT REFUGEES THERE AND HUNDREDS MORE ARE COMING IN EVERY DAY. THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG, WITH OUR FULL SUPPORT, WILL CONTINUE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE A HAVEN FOR THESE MISERABLE PEOPLE.

| 1 APPEAL

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I APPEAL TO YOU AS A COMMONWEALTH STATESMAN WHOSE EXPERIENCE  
COMMANDS RESPECT TO HELP MEET THIS CRISIS IN A HUMANE WAY.  
I HOPE WE CAN WORK TOGETHER FOR EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ACTION  
AND THE MAINTENANCE OF HUMANITARIAN POLICIES TOWARDS REFUGEES.

I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU SOON. LORD CARRINGTON, WHOM  
YOU WILL BE SEEING ON 1 JULY, VERY MUCH HOPES TO DISCUSS ALL THIS  
WITH YOU THEN, BUT ACTION IS NEEDED NOW IF MANY THOUSAND MORE  
LIVES ARE NOT TO BE LOST.

WITH KINDEST REGARDS. MARGARET THATCHER.

ENDS.

2. WE DO NOT INTEND TO PUBLISH THE TEXT OF THIS MESSAGE  
BUT WE SHALL ANNOUNCE THAT AN APPEAL HAS BEEN MADE IN A  
MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER.

CARRINGTON

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