

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND LORD SOAMES
TUESDAY 25 DECEMBER 1979

PM: We rang to wish to all a very happy Christmas, you and Mary and to say thank you yet again.

Lord Soames: What a kind thought.

PM: Not at all. We heard on the radio this morning that the soldiers are arriving and they had had more offers for Christmas than there are soldiers.

Lord Soames: There are indeed and I have just been asked to see them.

PM: Is all well, Christopher?

Lord Soames: It is all well so far, you know. We have got a number of difficulties but that is what we are hear for.

PM: Yes, but it is rather exciting, isn't it?

Lord Soames: It is very exciting. I am a bit more optimistic than I was two days ago I must say.

PM: Well it looked a bit ugly then didn't it?

Lord Soames: Yes it did. You know, it comes and goes but I just pray we can pull it off.

PM: Well, you can.

Lord Soames: It won't be for want of trying anyway

PM: Well I know, nor for want of flair nor for want of brilliance and just the right touch.

Lord Soames: You are kind and will you give our love to Denis too.

PM: Yes and lots of love to Mary and we are just spending Christmas reading her book about her mother.

Lord Soames: Oh yes, how nice. Tell me is the weather awful with you?

PM: The weather this morning is bright sunshine, a hard frost and it looks perfect. You couldn't have a more perfect Christmas Day.

Lord Soames: Well we are just going to have a swim.

PM: How marvellous. Well lots of love to you all and to Mary and would you give our very kind regards to Tony Duff as well.

Lord Soames: Yes of course I will and thank you a thousand times for your kind thought in ringing.

PM: Bless you Christopher and happy Christmas and good New Year

Lord Soames: And we will be in touch. Everything going all right your end?

PM: Everything is going all right. We are helping America with Iran at the moment.

Lord Soames: Your visit to America was a glowing success.

PM: Well all that helps with Rhodesia, you know.

Lord Soames: Well absolutely.

PM: It all came at the right time.

Lord Soames: How does Europe look?

PM: All right Christopher. Bye bye. Much love.