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Subject file  
Gilbert Islands  
Independence  
May 79.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 July, 1979.

**PRIME MINISTER'S**  
**PERSONAL MESSAGE**  
**SERIAL No. T37/A9T**

I am very happy to send you, through Mr. Peter Blaker, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, this message of friendship and goodwill on behalf of myself and the British Government and people.

We extend to you, your colleagues, and all the people of your country our warmest congratulations on Kiribati taking her place in the international community as a sovereign independent Republic and a fellow member of the Commonwealth, and our sincere good wishes for the future.

The formal association between Britain and the Gilbert Islands has lasted for almost a century. I am confident that the friendship which has for so long existed between our two countries will continue to prosper in the years ahead.

(SGD) MT

The Honourable I. T. Tabai, CMG.