

OPS

CONFIDENTIAL

As requested.

GR 400

Subject filed on
Kampuchea De
Recognition of Pol Pot

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

The Duty Clerk
No 10 D.S.

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T 165B/79T

FM F C O 111729Z DECEMBER 79

TO IMMEDIATE PEKING

TELEGRAM NUMBER 739 OF 11 DECEMBER

INFO SAVING TOKYO, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, UKREP BRUSSELS,
UKMIS GENEVA.

YOUR TELNO 1037: DE-RECOGNITION OF POL POT: PREMIER HUA
GUOFENG'S MESSAGE TO MRS THATCHER.

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING REPLY FROM MRS THATCHER.

BEGINS:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 5 DECEMBER, IN WHICH YOU REPLIED
TO MY MESSAGE ADVISING YOU THAT WE PROPOSED TO ANNOUNCE ON 6
DECEMBER OUR DECISION TO WITHDRAW RECOGNITION FROM THE POL POT
REGIME.

I AM SORRY YOU WERE WORRIED AT OUR DECISION. AS I SAID, I GAVE
GREAT WEIGHT TO YOUR VIEWS, AS I DID TO THOSE OF THE ASEAN
GOVERNMENTS WHO ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR DISQUIET. HOWEVER,
I REMAIN CONVINCED THAT A PROCEDURAL STEP SUCH AS WE FELT OBLIGED
TO ANNOUNCE ON 6 DECEMBER OFFERS NO ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE
VIETNAMESE OR THEIR FRIENDS. I HAVE ASKED OUR AMBASSADOR TO SHOW YOU
THE SPEECHES MADE BY GOVERNMENT MINISTERS DURING THE HOUSE OF
COMMONS DEBATE. YOU WILL SEE THAT THERE IS NO WEAKENING IN OUR ROBUST
OPPOSITION TO VIETNAMESE AMBITIONS. IN THIS WE ARE AGREED.

I HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE FUTURE OCCASIONS WHERE WE CAN AGAIN
EXCHANGE OUR THOUGHTS ON THE PROBLEMS OF INDO-CHINA. THE NEED
FOR A SOLUTION IN CAMBODIA GIVING THE KHMER PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY
FREELY TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN FORM OF GOVERNMENT IS SERIOUS, AND I SHALL
CONTINUE TO GIVE IT MY FIRM SUPPORT.
WITH BEST WISHES
ENDS

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/2. IF ZHANG

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2. IF ZHANG WENJIN SHOULD REVERT TO POINTS IN PARA 2 OF YOUR TELEGRAM 1036 YOU COULD SAY (A) THAT WE CONSIDERED THE LOSS OF EFFECTIVE CONTROL BY THE GOVERNMENT IN OCCUPIED EUROPE DURING THE WAR TO BE MERELY TEMPORARY. IN ANY CASE, AS BRITAIN WAS ENGAGED IN A WAR FOR OUR NATIONAL EXISTENCE, WE COULD NOT HAVE CONTEMPLATED CEASING TO HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH OUR ALLIES IN EUROPE, WITH WHOM WE WERE WAGING WAR AGAINST A COMMON ENEMY. THE PRESENT POSITION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA IS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT.

3. WITH REGARD TO POINT (B) OUR DECISION AFFECTING POL POT IS INDEED BASED ON 'TECHNICAL' CONSIDERATIONS CONCERNING OUR CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION. ANY GOVERNMENTAL DECISION IS LIABLE TO HAVE POLITICAL EFFECTS: BUT WE ARE ANXIOUS THAT OUR DECISION SHOULD NOT BE MISUNDERSTOOD. NOR SHOULD IT BE GIVEN A SIGNIFICANCE WHICH IT DOES NOT HAVE: ONLY IN THIS EVENT WILL THE VIETNAMESE FEEL GRATIFIED.

CARRINGTON

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F I L E S

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SPD	PS/PUS
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OID	MR BULLARD
PLANNING STAFF	MR CORTAZZI
LEGAL ADVISERS	LORD N G LENNOX
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