

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

31 August 1979

Dom Michael,

Death of Lord Mountbatten: President Carter's Message

I enclose a suggested draft reply from the Prime Minister to President Carter's message of condolence of 28 August. Like you, we have been struck by the lack of reference in the message to the circumstances of Lord Mountbatten's death: no mention of murder or terrorisn, no condemnation. The State Department spokesman has however now issued (on 28 August) a statement condemning all perpetrators of acts of violence in Northern Ireland and urging Americans not to support them. We suggest that the Prime Minister should include a reference in her message welcoming this statement. This might serve to show that we have noted the deficiency in the President's form of words.

We suggest that the Prime Minister's reply should be conveyed by our Embassy at Washington. If you agree, we will despatch the enclosed telegrams. It would also be appropriate to inform the American Charge: I enclose a suggested draft reply to his letter.

I take it you will inform the family of this exchange.

yours over Rodenic Lyna

R M J Lyne Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq 10 Downing Street

	Department Drafted by (Block Capitals)	7/76 904953 NAD J P Millingt	OUTWARD On TELEGRAM	Security Classification UNCLASSIFIED Precedence IMMEDIATE DESKBY	XY 42
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istribution:-		[TEXT]			
CO/Whitehall		DEATH OF LORD MOUNTBATTEN			
		1. MIFT contains the text of a message from President			
		Carter to the Prime Minister delivered via the American			
		Embassy here, conveying his condolences on the death of			
		Lord Mountbatten. Please arrange for the following			
		reply to be delivered to the President as soon as			
opies to:—		possible:			
		"Dear Mr President			

I was grateful to receive your letter of 28 August

conveying the condolences of yourself and Mrs Carter on

the tragic death of Earl Mountbatten of Burma. I shall

pass on your message of sympathy to his family. Nothing

can ever justify such a brutal and senseless murder. May

I also say that I welcome the State Department's statement

on 28 August, reaffirming your Government's condemnation of all those who seek to achieve their goals in Northern Ireland through violence, and urging all Americans to refrain from supporting organisations involved in violence.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher"

2. See MIFT





NAD Department . . .

(Block Capitals) J P MILLINGTON

OUTWARD

TELEGRAM

Security Classification

UNCLASSIFIED

Precedence IMMEDIATE

DESKBY

Tel. Extn ... 5054

Drafted by

FOR COMMS. DEPT. USE

Despatched

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(Time).....Z PREAMBLE (Restrictive Prefix)..... (Caveat/ (Security Class.) UNC LASSIFIED Privacy Marking) (Codeword)..... IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON Tel. No...... of...... (precedence) (post) AND TO (precedence/post) AND SAVING TO REPEATED TO (for info) SAVING TO (for info).....

Distribution:-

FCO/WHITEHALL

(TEXT)

MIPT: DEATH OF LORD MOUNTBATTEN

1. Following is the text of President Carter's message:

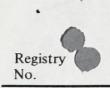
"Dear Mrs Thatcher:

It is with a profound sadness that Rosalyn and I learned of the tragic death of Earl Mountbatten. He was an extraordinarily wise and courageous statesman and soldier. The American people remember especially his great service to our common cause during World War II. We share your great sense of loss.

Sincerely

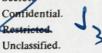
Jimmy Carter."

Copies to:-



SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

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PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

DRAFT letter

The Honourable Edward J Streator

Chargé d'Affaires a i

American Embassy

Grosvenor Square

London W1A 1AE

To:-

Type 1 +

From

PS/No 10

Telephone No. Ext.

Department

I have been asked to thank you for your letter of 28 August to the Prime Minister, with which you enclosed a message from President Carter conveying his condolences on the death of Lord Mountbatten. I enclose for your information the text of a reply which is being sent via the British Embassy at Washington DC.

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Enclosure

Dear Mr President

I was grateful to receive your letter of 28 August conveying the condolences of yourself and Mrs Carter on the tragic death of Earl Mountbatten of Burma. I shall pass on your message of sympathy to his family. Nothing can ever justify such a brutal and senseless murder. In this connection I welcome also the statement made by the State Department spokesman on 28 August, reaffirming the condemenation of your governmennt of all those in Northern Ireland who seek to achieve their goals through violence, and urging all Americans to refrain from supporting organisations involved in violence.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher