



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

31 August 1979

Dear 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 terrorism, 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 ever

Roderic Lyne

R M J Lyne
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

File No.....

Department NAD

OUTWARD

Drafted by
(Block Capitals) J P Millington

TELEGRAM

Tel. Extn. 5054

Security Classification UNCLASSIFIED
Precedence IMMEDIATE
DESKBYZ

FOR COMMS. DEPT. USE	Despatched (Date)	POSTBY
	(Time)ZZ

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) Z (G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix)

(Security Class.) UNCLASSIFIED (Caveat/ Privacy marking)

(Codeword) (Deskby) Z

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON Tel. No. of
(precedence) (post)

AND TO (precedence/post)

AND SAVING TO

REPEATED TO (for info) DUBLIN NIO Belfast

SAVING TO (for info)

Distribution:-

FCO/Whitehall

[TEXT]

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 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

Copies to:-

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

MT.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

File No.
Department NAD
Drafted by J P MILLINGTON
(Block Capitals)
Tel. Extn 5054

OUTWARD
TELEGRAM

Security Classification UNCLASSIFIED
Precedence IMMEDIATE
DESKBY Z

FOR COMMS. DEPT. USE	Despatched	(Date)..... (Time).....Z	POSTBYZ
----------------------	------------	-----------------------------	---------------

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) Z(G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix).....
 (Security Class.) UNCLASSIFIED (Caveat/Privacy Marking).....
 (Codeword)..... (Deskby).....

To IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON (precedence) (post) Tel. No. of.....

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:-

Registry
No.

DRAFT letter

Type 1 +

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
~~Confidential.~~
~~Restricted.~~ ✓
 Unclassified.

To:-

The Honourable Edward J Streator
 Chargé d'Affaires a i
 American Embassy
 Grosvenor Square
 London W1A 1AE

From

PS/No 10

Telephone No. Ext.

Department

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

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.

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 condemnation of your government 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

*A free
ant.*