

GRS 300 Subject copy filed on
Sweden May 1987
Internal Situation
CONFIDENTIAL
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FM STOCKHOLM 201510Z SEPT 82

CONFIDENTIAL
PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 181A/82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 165 OF 20 SEPTEMBER 1982

INFO SAVING COPENHAGEN, HELSINKI, OSLO, REYKJAVIK AND UKREP BRUSSELS

(15) MIPT: SWEDISH ELECTIONS

1. THE SPEAKER WILL HAVE CONSULTATIONS WITH PARTY LEADERS BEFORE INVITING PALME TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, HOWEVER, THE NEW PRIME MINISTER MUST BE CONFIRMED IN OFFICE BY THE RIKSDAG BEFORE ANNOUNCING HIS GOVERNMENT OR PUBLISHING HIS POLICY STATEMENT. PARLIAMENT RE-ASSEMBLES ON 4 OCTOBER AND THIS PROCEDURE SHOULD BE COMPLETED ON 8 OCTOBER. THE OUTGOING GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THEN IN A CARETAKER CAPACITY.

2. ALTHOUGH SOME NAMES ARE REGARDED AS SELF-EVIDENT, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT FULL DETAILS OF GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS WILL BE KNOWN IN ADVANCE. PALME TOLD ME LAST WEEK THAT HIS PREFERENCE WOULD BE FOR MINISTERS WITH A PARLIAMENTARY BACKGROUND. THERE IS NO SELF-EVIDENT CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF FOREIGN MINISTER, AND PALME IS EXPECTED TO SET THE TONE HIMSELF.

3. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES SHOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER FORMALITIES ARE COMPLETED ON 8 OCTOBER AND I RECOMMEND ACCORDINGLY.

POSSIBLE TEXTS ARE:

A. FROM PRIME MINISTER TO OLOF PALME.

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/QUOTE

GENERAL RTR (16)

ACK 12/24

WRS 01412

✓ MB

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QUOTE I SEND YOU MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS
PRIME MINISTER AND MY BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF YOUR
GOVERNMENT UNQUOTE. THIS IS IDENTICAL WITH WHAT SHE SAID TO FALLDIN
IN 1979. HE WAS UNKNOWN OUTSIDE SWEDEN; PALME IS AN INTERNATIONAL
FIGURE. I SUGGEST SHE SHOULD RETAIN THE WORD QUOTE WARM UNQUOTE
AS SHOWING WE CAN ALL WORK WITH PALME (AND TO SAFEGUARD OUR VERY
IMPORTANT EXPORT POSITION WORTH POUNDS 1.7 BILLION).

B. FROM YOURSELF TO FOREIGN MINISTER.

QUOTE PLEASE ACCEPT MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES ON
YOUR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN MINISTER. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING
WITH YOU ON THE PROBLEMS FACING US ALL AND TO REINFORCE THE CLOSE
RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES UNQUOTE. THIS FOLLOWS WITH
MINOR VARIATIONS THE PRECEDENT OF THREE YEARS AGO.

4. SEE MIFT.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

MURRAY

STANDARD
WED
CABINET OFFICE

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2 OCT 1982

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