

SUBJECT



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
T66A/81
SERIAL NO:

PRIME MINISTER

21 April, 1981

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
No. 10 Downing Street
London S.W.1
ENGLAND

Dear Prime Minister,

I have the honour to refer to information which suggests that your Government proposes to divest itself of approximately one-half of its substantial shareholdings in the Cable and Wireless International Telecommunications Group of which Cable and Wireless (West Indies Ltd.) is a member.

You will recall, Prime Minister, that in September 1969 the Government of Trinidad and Tobago entered into a joint venture agreement with Cable and Wireless (West Indies Ltd.) to form an external telecommunications company - Trinidad and Tobago External Telecommunications Company Ltd. (Textel). The Government of Trinidad and Tobago holds 51 per cent and Cable and Wireless (West Indies Ltd.) holds 49 per cent of the shares.

My Government wishes to ascertain whether the information accurately reflects the intentions of your Government. In the event that it does, my Government would wish to have the assurance that early negotiations may be possible so as to give the Trinidad and Tobago Government first option to purchase the shares of Cable and Wireless (West Indies Ltd.)

I should be most grateful for an early reply to this matter.

Please accept, Prime Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration.

George M. Chambers
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