

OPS cc MASTER  
PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 1376/83



CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

OTTAWA, K1A 0A2

September 24, 1983

SUBJECT: NATO: Appt. of Sec. General  
Sept '80

Dear Margaret,

I am writing to express Canada's support for Lord Carrington should you put forward his name as Joseph Luns' successor.

As I understand it, Lord Carrington would respond positively to an indication of Allied consensus on his behalf, but would not wish to become involved in a contested election. If my information is correct, a consensus does appear to be developing since the United States, France, and the Federal Republic feel, as we do, that Peter Carrington is eminently well qualified to succeed Mr. Luns.

Indeed, I believe his qualifications are of sufficient weight to elicit the support of all our allies, but it will be important to be sensitive to their concerns so as to avoid any last minute problems. I am thinking, in particular, of the Portugese who have already been in touch with us regarding their own candidate. Please let me know if you feel that Canada can be of further assistance in this process.

I am sending a brief note to Ronald Reagan to let him know where we stand, and Allan MacEachen will be writing to Sir Geoffrey Howe and George Shultz.

I am looking forward very much to receiving you in Ottawa next week, and travelling with you to Toronto and Edmonton. It will be a particularly valuable opportunity to discuss at length some of the issues that most concern us both.

Yours sincerely,

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, M.P.  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom  
10 Downing Street  
London, England