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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Rennie Amster

①

Apr 6/80 ?

27 October 1980

*Yes and
RMB 27/10*

Dear Michael,

Message to mark the retirement of
Mr Kosygin

Mr Kosygin's retirement at his own request comes after the exceptionally long period of 16 years as Soviet Prime Minister. There is no reason to believe that it is due to anything other than ill health, which was the reason President Brezhnev gave when making the announcement: Kosygin has had a series of heart attacks since 1976, most recently in 1979. As a result, he has probably had little influence on Soviet policy making in the last year or so.

It seems likely that many world leaders, including major Western leaders, will send messages to mark Kosygin's retirement. Kosygin has been closely associated over the years with British/Soviet relations and has visited the UK twice, in 1955 and 1967. The Prime Minister will remember meeting him at Moscow airport on her way to Tokyo in June 1979. HM Ambassador at Moscow has recommended that the Prime Minister send a message to mark Kosygin's retirement. Lord Carrington agrees that this would be appropriate. He thinks that the best way of doing this would be for the Prime Minister to address her message to Kosygin's successor as Prime Minister, Mr Tikhonov. The message would then both congratulate Tikhonov on his appointment and convey good wishes to Kosygin.

/ I enclose a draft for the Prime Minister's consideration.

*yours ever
Rodric Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
London

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR NIKOLAI ALEXANDROVICH
TIKHONOV, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE USSR

I send you my congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

I shall be grateful if you will transmit to Mr Kosygin my hope that he will quickly recover his health. I remember with appreciation the courtesy he showed to me during my brief stop at Moscow airport in June last year, and I am sure that the many British Ministers who worked with him during his long and distinguished career will wish to join me in expressing good wishes to him in his retirement.

ms.

27 OCT 1980

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4



R H

Soviet
Union

21 November, 1980

Thank you for your letter of 21 November.
I have brought the enclosed message from the
Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the
USSR, to the Prime Minister's immediate attention.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Monsieur V N Keline

(Embassy of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics)

JWP



ПРЕСЬБЫТЕО
СОЮЗА СОВЕТСКИХ
СОЦИАЛИСТИЧЕСКИХ РЕСПУБЛИК

" 2/ " November, 1980

Dear Mr.Alexander,

I have the pleasure to transmit
the enclosed message of Mr.N.A.Tikhonov,
the Chairman of the Council of Ministers
of the USSR, to the Rt.Hon.Mrs.M.Thatcher,
Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Yours sincerely,

V.Keline
Charge d'Affaires a.i.
of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics

Mr.M.Alexander,
Prime Minister's Office,
10 Downing Street,
London

Unofficial translation

Her Excellency Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister of Great Britain,
10 Downing Street,
London

Thank you for your congratulations on the occasion of
my appointment to the post of Chairman of the Council of
Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

N. Tikhonov,
Moscow, The Kremlin,
21 November, 1980

ЕЕ ПРЕВОСХОДИТЕЛЬСТВУ ГОСПОЖЕ МАРГАРЕТ ТЭТЧЕР
ПРЕМЬЕР-МИНИСТРУ ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНИИ

ДАУНИНГ СТРИТ, 10
ЛОНДОН

Благодарю Вас за поздравление по случаю моего назначения
Председателем Совета Министров Союза Советских Социалисти-
ческих Республик.

Н.ТИХОНОВ

Москва, Кремль
21 ноября 1980 года

Soviet Union

~~PRIME MINISTER'S~~
~~PERSONAL MESSAGE~~
~~SERIAL No.~~

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 291700Z OCT 80
TO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW
TELEGRAM NUMBER 594 OF 29 OCTOBER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

1. PLEASE ARRANGE DELIVERY OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE
FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO TIKHONOV:
BEGINS

I SEND YOU MY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE USSR.

I SHALL BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WILL TRANSMIT TO MR KOSYGIN
MY HOPE THAT HE WILL QUICKLY RECOVER HIS HEALTH. I REMEMBER
WITH APPRECIATION THE COURTESY HE SHOWED TO ME DURING MY
BRIEF STOP AT MOSCOW AIRPORT IN JUNE LAST YEAR, AND I AM
SURE THAT THE MANY BRITISH MINISTERS WHO WORKED WITH HIM
DURING HIS LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER WILL WISH TO JOIN ME
IN EXPRESSING GOOD WISHES TO HIM IN HIS RETIREMENT.

ENDS

CARRINGTON

NNNN

LIMITED	PS/MR BLAKER
EESD	PS/PUS
PS	MR BULLARD
PS/LPS	MR FERGUSSON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

JS
Soviet Union

28 October 1980

MESSAGE TO MR. TIKHONOV

The Prime Minister has approved the text of the message to the new Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, enclosed with your letter to me of 27 October. I should be grateful if you could arrange for its despatch.

MODBA

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SP