



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 November 1981

Dear Michael,

Rm J Lyne

Yes not Agree text? And.

Election of the United Nations Secretary-General

Thank you for your letter of 17 November with which you enclosed the text of a message from Mr Malcolm Fraser to the Prime Minister suggesting that we should switch to support of Mr Salim.

As you know, President Nyerere had suggested to Mr Fraser that he should approach the Prime Minister in this way. Mr Fraser will no doubt pass on to Nyerere the gist of the Prime Minister's reply.

I enclose a draft reply which follows the line already taken with Salim himself by Lord Carrington and by our Permanent Representative in New York.

The draft does not comment directly on Mr Fraser's assertion that American opposition to Salim is less firmly entrenched than Chinese opposition to Waldheim. Our own belief is that neither country is likely to reconsider its position unless a number of third candidates have been considered and rejected by the Security Council. You will have seen that the Council held 8 more rounds of voting on 17 November and the feeling is building up that the Council must soon proceed to consider other candidates, despite the opposition that the African Group has hitherto maintained.

We propose to telegraph the text of the Prime Minister's reply to the High Commissioner in Canberra for delivery.

yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

17 9 11 1967



DRAFT: ~~XXXX~~te/letter/te~~XXXXXX~~XXXXXX

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

The Right Honourable
Malcolm Fraser CH MP

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your message about the election of
the United Nations Secretary-General.

CAVEAT.....

I was most interested to have your opinion of
Salim Salim. We also have a high regard for his
abilities. The problem is that African and Middle Eastern
issues continue to dominate the political work of the
United Nations and of the Secretary-General and it seems
to us that it would be best if, for the time being, the
Secretary-General were not someone whose background, like
Mr Salim's, is so heavily involved in these issues. I
must make it clear that this does not in any way reflect
on his personal integrity or on his determination to be
objective if elected. I have no doubts on these points,
but Mr Salim would inevitably be seen by the world as the
possessor of strong views on these subjects and this could
affect his ability to play the full part that the
Secretary-General should on these very difficult problems.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

/As you know,

As you know, the deadlock in the Security Council continues despite a further 8 rounds of voting. I very much hope that the Council will succeed in finding a way forward before long.

BF
ON
20 November 1981Election of the United Nations Secretary-General

The Prime Minister has seen and approved the text of the message to Mr. Fraser enclosed with your letter to me of 19 November. I should be grateful if you could arrange for its despatch.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

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

SUBJECT

CONFIDENTIAL

37935 - 1

OO CANBERRA DESKBY 232230Z
RR DAR ES SALAAM
GRS 325
CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 232230Z
FM FCO 231215Z NOV 81
TO IMMEDIATE CANBERRA
TELEGRAM NUMBER 469 OF 23 NOVEMBER
INFO PRIORITY UKHIS NEW YORK, ROUTINE DAR ES SALAAM
SAVING TO WASHINGTON
MIPT: ELECTION OF UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

UN
Seen
25/11
**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 161/B/81**

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MR FRASER'S MESSAGE TO THE PRIME
MINISTER:
BEGINS

I AM SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE BEEN TAKING A CLOSE
INTEREST HERE IN THE PROGRESS OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL
ELECTION.

I WAS IMPRESSED BY SALIM SALIM WHEN I MET HIM IN MELBOURNE
DURING CHOQM. I THINK THAT HIS EXPERIENCE, AND HIS OWN PERSONAL
QUALITIES, WOULD MAKE HIM AN EXCELLENT SECRETARY-GENERAL.
AUSTRALIA'S CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH SALIM BEGAN WHEN HE WAS
CHAIRMAN OF THE UN COMMITTEE OF 24 ON DECOLONIZATION. HE ACTED
WITH FIRMNESS AND RESTRAINT, AND WAS TO A LARGE DEGREE RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE ADOPTION IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF MODERATE AND RESPONSIBLE RESOLUTIONS ON SMALL TERRITORIES.
GIVEN THE SUPPORT THAT HAS BUILT UP FOR SALIM IN THE ASSEMBLY -
SUPPORT WHICH INCLUDES A LARGE NUMBER OF FRIENDS AND ALLIES OF
THE UNITED STATES - I AM NOT CONVINCED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS
NECESSARILY COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING A VETO OF SALIM. ON THE
OTHER HAND, THE CHINESE VETO OF KURT WALDHEIM SEEMS FIRMLY
ENTRENCHED.

I THINK THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT NOW FOR WALDHEIM TO COMMAND
THE NECESSARY THIRD WORLD SUPPORT TO BE FULLY EFFECTIVE IN A THIRD
TERM. ON THE OTHER HAND SALIM'S PRESTIGE AS AN INCOMING SECRETARY
GENERAL WOULD NOT BE IMPAIRED BY THE VOTING TO DATE. IN THESE
CIRCUMSTANCES IT WOULD SEEM A PITY TO HAVE TO SETTLE ON ANY LESS

/ATTRACTIVE

1
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

27025 - 1

ATTRACTIVE THIRD CANDIDATE.

I KNOW THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS NOT VETOED SALIM. I WONDER, HOWEVER, WHETHER YOU MIGHT NOT COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN THE PRESENT SITUATION FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM TO BE QUITE POSITIVE IN SUPPORT OF SALIM? THIS MIGHT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS AND COULD BE A KEY TO A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE PRESENT DEADLOCK.

ENDS

CARRINGTON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

NNNN

X

DISTRIBUTION

LIMITED

PS/LD TREFGARNE

COPIES TO

UND

PS/PUS

MR BERMAN LEGAL ADVISERS

EAD

MR BULLARD

SPD

SIR A ACLAND

PS

LD BRIDGES

PS/LPS

MR DAY

PS/MR LUCE

MR GOODISON

PS/MR HURD

SIR L. ALLINSON

2

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT



PRIME MINISTER'S

PRIME MINISTER

PERSONAL MESSAGE

CANBERRA

SERIAL No. T 158/81

19 NOV 1981

My Dear Margaret

I am sure you will understand that we have been taking a close interest here in the progress of the UN Secretary-General election.

I was impressed by Salim Salim when I met him in Melbourne during CHOGM. I think that his experience, and his own personal qualities, would make him an excellent Secretary-General.

Australia's close relationship with Salim began while he was Chairman of the UN Committee of 24 on Decolonization. He acted with firmness and restraint, and was to a large degree responsible for the adoption in the Committee of 24 and the General Assembly of moderate and responsible resolutions on small territories.

Given the support that has built up for Salim in the Assembly - support which includes a large number of friends and allies of the United States - I am not convinced that the United States is necessarily committed to maintaining a veto of Salim. On the other hand, the Chinese veto of Kurt Waldheim seems firmly entrenched.

I think it would be difficult now for Waldheim to command the necessary Third World support to be fully effective in a third term. On the other hand Salim's prestige as an incoming Secretary-General would not be impaired by the voting to date. In these circumstances it would seem a pity to have to settle on any less attractive third candidate.

I know that the United Kingdom has not vetoed Salim. I wonder, however, whether you might not come to the conclusion that it would be helpful in the present situation for the United Kingdom to be quite positive in support of Salim? This might have a significant effect on other Council members and could be a key to a satisfactory resolution of the present deadlock.

You sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister of Great Britain,
LONDON SW.1.
UNITED KINGDOM



PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

19 NOV 1981

I am sure you will understand that we have been taking a close interest here in the progress of the UN Secretary-General election.

I was impressed by Salim Salim when I met him in Melbourne during CHOGM. I think that his experience, and his own personal qualities, would make him an excellent Secretary-General.

Australia's close relationship with Salim began while he was Chairman of the UN Committee of 24 on Decolonization. He acted with firmness and restraint, and was to a large degree responsible for the adoption in the Committee of 24 and the General Assembly of moderate and responsible resolutions on small territories.

Given the support that has built up for Salim in the Assembly - support which includes a large number of friends and allies of the United States - I am not convinced that the United States is necessarily committed to maintaining a veto of Salim. On the other hand, the Chinese veto of Kurt Waldheim seems firmly entrenched.

I think it would be difficult now for Waldheim to command the necessary Third World support to be fully effective in a third term. On the other hand Salim's prestige as an incoming Secretary-General would not be impaired by the voting to date. In these circumstances it would seem a pity to have to settle on any less attractive third candidate.

.../2

I know that the United Kingdom has not vetoed Salim. I wonder, however, whether you might not come to the conclusion that it would be helpful in the present situation for the United Kingdom to be quite positive in support of Salim? This might have a significant effect on other Council members and could be a key to a satisfactory resolution of the present deadlock.

Malcolm Fraser

The Rt. Hon., Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister of Great Britain,
LONDON SW.1.
UNITED KINGDOM



UN T
AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION · LONDON

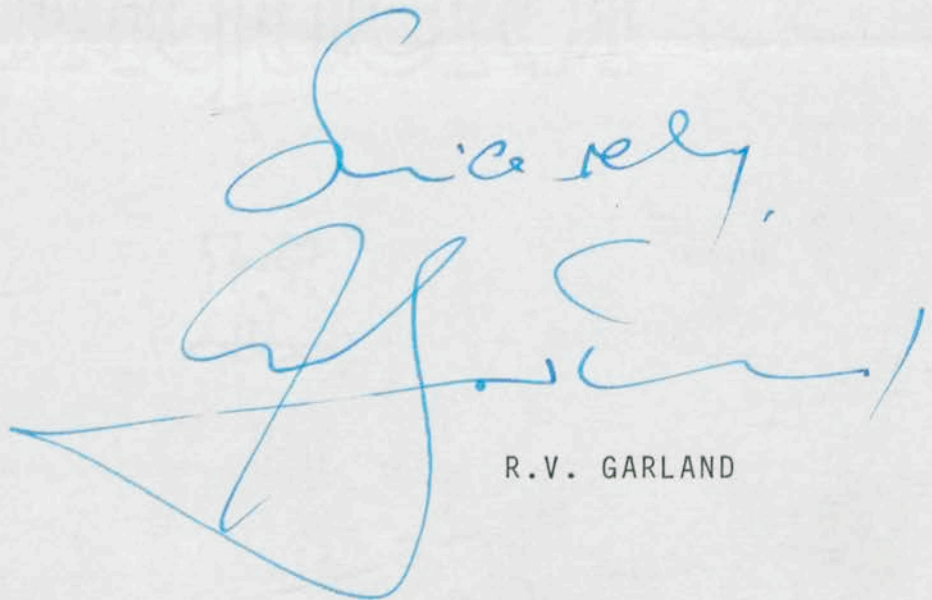
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

7 December 1981

My dear Bonnie Hunter,

On 17 November I wrote to you enclosing the text of a letter from the Australian Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. Malcolm Fraser, concerning Mr Salim's candidature for Secretary-General of the United Nations.

.... I now enclose the original of Mr Fraser's letter.

Sincerely,


R.V. GARLAND

The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
No. 10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1.



dl

UN

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 November 1981

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the Australian High Commissioner setting out the terms of a message to her from Mr. Fraser about the election of the UN Secretary General.

I should be grateful if you could let me have as soon as convenient the text of a draft reply which the Prime Minister might send to Mr. Fraser.

MOBBA

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

MM



dl

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 November 1981

I am replying on the Prime Minister's behalf to your letter to her of 17 November. The text of the message from Mr. Fraser has, of course, been brought to the Prime Minister's immediate attention.

MODBA

His Excellency The Honourable R.V. Garland

CONFIDENTIAL



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION · LONDON

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 158/81

17 November 1981

✓. Master set
ops.

My dear Prime Minister,

A telegram from my Prime Minister asks me to convey to you the following text of a letter, the original of which is en route by diplomatic bag:

Begins -

"Dear Margaret,

I am sure you will understand that we have been taking a close interest here in the progress of the UN Secretary-General election.

I was impressed by Salim Salim when I met him in Melbourne during CHOGM. I think that his experience, and his own personal qualities, would make him an excellent Secretary-General.

Australia's close relationship with Salim began when he was Chairman of the UN Committee of 24 on Decolonization. He acted with firmness and restraint, and was to a large degree responsible for the adoption in the Committee of 24 and the General Assembly of moderate and responsible resolutions on small territories.

Given the support that has built up for Salim in the Assembly - support which includes a large number of friends and allies of the United States - I am not convinced that the United States is necessarily committed to maintaining a veto of Salim. On the other hand, the Chinese veto of Kurt Waldheim seems firmly entrenched.

I think that it would be difficult now for Waldheim to command the necessary Third World support to be fully effective in a third term. On the other hand Salim's prestige as an incoming Secretary-General would not be impaired by the voting to date. In these circumstances it would seem a pity to have to settle on any less attractive third candidate.

...2/

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

I know that the United Kingdom has not vetoed Salim. I wonder, however, whether you might not come to the conclusion that it would be helpful in the present situation for the United Kingdom to be quite positive in support of Salim? This might have a significant effect on other council members and could be a key to a satisfactory resolution of the present deadlock.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Fraser."

Ends.

Sincerely,
R.V. Garland

R.V. GARLAND

The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
No. 10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1.

CONFIDENTIAL



17 NOV 1987

11 12 1 2 3
4 5 6 7 8 9

Computer

GRS 240

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FM DAR ES SALAAM 160815Z NOV 81

TO PRIORITY FCO

TEL NO 351 OF 16 NOVEMBER 1981

INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK

ROUTINE WASHINGTON, CANBERRA

mb

ELECTION OF UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. ON 7 NOVEMBER PRESIDENT NYERERE ASKED THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SUGGEST TO MR FRASER THAT HE SHOULD SPEAK TO MRS THATCHER, AND ALSO TO PRESIDENT MARCOS OF THE PHILIPPINES, TO URGE THEM TO SUPPORT MR SALIM'S CANDIDATURE. NYERERE BELIEVED THAT IF WE WERE TO CHANGE OUR VOTE THIS COULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT INFLUENCE ON THE AMERICANS. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER DID NOT YET KNOW WHAT ACTION IF ANY MR FRASER HAD TAKEN.

2. NYERERE TOLD THE HIGH COMMISSIONER THAT HE WOULD BE MAKING A SIMILAR APPROACH TO ME. HOWEVER, IN THE EVENT, IT WOULD SEEM HE DID NOT FEEL ABLE TO GO SO FAR AS TO ASK FOR A CHANGE IN OUR VOTE (MY TELNO 333).

3. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TOLD ME THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT STRONGLY FAVOURED SALIM'S CANDIDATURE.

MOON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

LIMITED
UND
CCD
EAD
PS
PS/LPS
PS/MRLUCE
PS/LORDTREFGARNE
PS/PUS
MR BULLARD
SIR A. ACLAND
LORD BRIDGES
MR DAY
MR GOODISON
SIR L. ALLINSON

COPIES TO
MR BERMAN, LEGAL ADVISERS

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

CONFIDENTIAL