Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 December 1981

Dear John,

UN Secretary General Elections: Message to
Prime Minister from President of Guyana

Thank you for your letter of 10 December enclosing the text
of a telegram to the Prime Minister from the President of Guyana.
When President Burnham raised this with the Prime Minister on
10 November, the Prime Minister simply took note.

The Prime Minister could reply in the following terms:

'Dear President Burnham,

Thank you for your message about the elections in the UN
Security Council for a successor to Mr Waldheim. We have
worked closely with Sonny Ramphal during his time as
Commonwealth Secretary General, and as you say this
record speaks for itself.

It was kind of you to write to me about this important
matter.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher'

If agreed, we will telegraph this reply to Georgetown for
delivery to President Burnham. Given that the balloting is due
to resume on 11 December, it would be useful if this acknowledge-
ment could be despatched from London tomorrow morning.

Yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing St

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 December 1981

<u>UN Secretary General</u>

You wrote to me on 10 December about the course of action which Sir Anthony Parsons proposed to take in the next stage of this election. In a separate letter you propose a draft reply to the message which the Prime Minister had received from the President of Guyana concerning the candidature of Mr. Ramphal.

As I told you earlier on the telephone, the Prime Minister is content for Sir Anthony Parsons to proceed as he recommends (on the assumption that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary is also content). The Prime Minister has also approved the draft reply to the President of Guyana.

AJC

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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10 December 1981

UN Secretary General

I enclose a copy of a telegram which the
Prime Minister has received from the President
of Guyana seeking support for the candidature
of Mr. Sonny Ramphal for the post of UN
Secretary General.

I should be grateful if you would provide
a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send
in the next few days.

JOHN COLES

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

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FOLLOWING FOR : .-MARGARET THATCHER,
PRIME MINISTER,
UNITED KINGDOM.

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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

YOUR EXCELLENCY, SERIAL No. T 174/81

I WRITE TO YOU IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S
SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVES FOLLOWING THE IMPASSE IN ITS CONSIDERATION
OF THE CANDIDATURES OF SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM AND
FOREIGN MINISTER SALIM AHMED SALIM OF TANZANIA FOR THE UNITED
NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERALSHIP STOP SONNY RAMPHAL, CURRENTLY
COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL AND FORMERLY FOREIGN MINISTER OF
GUYANA IS WILLING TO OFFER HIS SERVICES AND BE CONSIDERED FOR
APPOINTMENT STOP AS I TOLD YOU WHEN WE MET ON NOVEMBER 10, HE
HAS MY COMPLETE SUPPORT AND CONFIDENCE.

SONNY RAMPHAL'S WORK ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE AND HIS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION ARE
WELL KNOWN STOP HIS RECORD AS FOREIGN MINISTER OF GUYANA AND NOW
AS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH SERVING 46 COUNTRIES OF
ALL CONTINENTS IS MY BEST TESTIMONY OF HIS WORTH AS A TRUE
INTERNATIONALIST, AN EXPERIENCED ADMINISTRATOR AND A MAN OF
BOTH VISION AND PRACTICALITY STOP IN HIS CURRENT OFFICE HE ALREADY
BELONGS TO A WIDER COMMUNITY THAN GUYANA, OR INDEED ANY ONE
GEOGRAPHIC REGION, AND IT IS OUR PRIVILEGE TO PUT HIM FORWARD
FOR SERVICE TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE BELIEF OF HIS BEING
ACCEPTABLE TO A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
STOP I HOPE HIS CANDIDATURE WOULD BE WELCOME TO YOUR GOVERNMENT
AND I SEEK YOUR SUPPORT FOR IT.

YOURS SINCERELY,

L.F.S. BURNHAM
PRESIDENT
CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA.

FOREIGN GUYANA.

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