

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister (D)

Agree with?

Yes not

Re: [unclear]

22 December 1980

Dear Michael,

Letter From The Japanese Prime Minister

As requested in your letter of 11 December, I enclose a draft reply to Mr Suzuki's message of 5 December to the Prime Minister in the form of a draft telegram to our Embassy in Tokyo.

It is important that we should take the Japanese along with us over Poland, as on major developments elsewhere. The draft places particular emphasis on this point. As the subject is mentioned in Mr Suzuki's message, it would also be appropriate for the Prime Minister to register concern at the state of trade relations with Japan.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to John Wiggins (HM Treasury) and Stuart Hampson (Department of Trade).

Yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

File No.

Department FED

Drafted by
(Block Capitals)

Tel. Extn.

OUTWARD

TELEGRAM

Security Classification	
CONFIDENTIAL	
Precedence	
IMMEDIATE	
DESKBY	Z

FOR COMMS. DEPT. USE	Despatched	(Date)	POSTBY	Z
		(Time)		Z

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) Z (G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix)

(Security Class.) CONFIDENTIAL (Caveat/Privacy marking)

(Codeword) (Deskby) Z

TO IMMEDIATE TOKYO Tel. No. of
(precedence) (post)

AND TO (precedence/post)

AND SAVING TO

REPEATED TO (for info)

SAVING TO (for info) .EC..POSTS,.....UKDEL..NATO,.....WASHINGTON.....

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[TEXT]

LETTER TO JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER

1. Please arrange delivery of the following message from the Prime Minister in reply to Mr Suzuki's letter of 5 December (copied to you under cover of McLaren's letter of 12 December).

'Dear Prime Minister

Thank you for your letter of 5 December. I was very pleased to meet Mr Ito during his visit to London on 10 December and valued my discussion with him.

I firmly share your belief that Britain and Europe must work together with Japan in tackling the many serious political and economic issues which confront the industrialised democracies. The close contacts between our governments in recent months have been most welcome. There will be a good opportunity to continue these contacts when Lord Carrington visits Japan next spring.

Copies to:-

No 10 Dowing St
A Dunning Esq,
CRE 2, DOT

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In recent weeks the situation in Poland has commanded the attention of my government, as of many others. I know that you share our view that the Poles should be left to solve their own problems and that a Soviet intervention would have grave consequences. The NATO countries are considering the appropriate response should the Russians intervene, and I believe it would be useful for our two governments to exchange views on these matters, and on the question of economic aid to Poland. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will keep in touch with your officials through your Embassy in London and the British Embassy in Tokyo.

As you say, it is also important to put our economic relationship on a healthier footing. The state of relations on the sensitive issues of trade inevitably affects the climate for the wider relationship between Europe and Japan. The statement issued by the Council of Foreign Ministers of the European Community on 25 November sets out clearly the concerns and expectations of all the member states including the United Kingdom. Investment and other forms of industrial co-operation clearly have an important contribution to make and I look forward to strengthening our partnership in these fields.

I too look forward very much to seeing you in Ottawa next July.

Margaret Thatcher'

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 December 1980

RF sorted
to 'T'

Message to Mr. Suzuki

The Prime Minister has seen and approved the text enclosed with your letter to me of 22 December.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Wiggins (HM Treasury) and Stuart Hampson (Department of Trade).

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

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

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Japan

file

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 December 1980

Dear Roderic,

Call by Mr. Ito

Further to my letter to you of 10 December about the Prime Minister's meeting with the Japanese Foreign Minister, I enclose a copy of a message from the Japanese Prime Minister which Mr. Ito left with the Prime Minister and which was inadvertently omitted from my letter under reference. There is not a great deal of substance in Mr. Suzuki's message but I should be grateful if you could let me have a draft reply in due course.

fred
under
5/12

I am sending copies of this letter and its enclosure to John Wiggins (HM Treasury) and Stuart Hampson (Department of Trade).

Yours ever

Richard Alexander

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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