



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 December 1979

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Pamie Nindler

Dear Michael,

PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS

Yes - excellent  
pub. Agree with? Pam

You will have seen the results of the Portuguese elections of 2 December, which gave the Democratic Alliance a majority of seats in the Assembly.

It is virtually certain that the Alliance leader, Dr Francisco Sa Carneiro, will be invited to form a government. However, the President will not act until the Portuguese emigrant votes are counted and the official results published, which will probably be in about a week's time.

Following the visit to London by the leaders of the Democratic Alliance, during which the Prime Minister received Dr Sa Carneiro and his colleagues on 7 November, the United Kingdom is likely to have a particular place in the eyes of the new Government. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary thinks that it would be appropriate if the normal message of congratulation to a new Prime Minister was couched in warm terms and delivered promptly. I enclose a draft telegram which, if you agree, will be despatched to Lisbon. In addition Lord Carrington proposes himself to send messages of congratulation to Dr Sa Carneiro and to Professor Freitas do Amaral of the Centre Democratic party on their success in the elections.

Yours ever

Paul

(P Lever)

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[TEXT]

MESSAGE TO NEW PRIME MINISTER

1. On the assumption that Dr Sa Carneiro is appointed Prime Minister of Portugal, please transmit the following message to him from the Prime Minister as soon as conveniently possible after the appointment is made.

Begins

Please accept the warm congratulations of the British Government on your appointment as Prime Minister to head Portugal's first majority government since the revolution. I very much hope that the links which were reinforced during your recent visit to London will prosper now that you have assumed office and I look forward to building on the spirit of close friendship and cooperation between our two countries. I send best

Copies to:-

wishes for the success of your government. Ends.

2. Please report delivery by telegram.

*ms*

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

ET DEC 1979



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HS

Portugal

10 December 1979

Portuguese Elections

The Prime Minister has seen and approved the message from her to Dr. Sa Carneiro enclosed with your letter to me of 7 December.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

Paul Lever, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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QB