

PRIME MINISTER

Lisbon telegrams 247 and 248 of 14 December 1980 refer to the appointment of a new Portuguese Prime Minister.

The Foreign Office are anxious to deliver a message of congratulation early tomorrow morning. A draft text for your consideration is contained in paragraph 2 of the second telegram.

Neill Mitchell

N.P.G. Mitchell
(Duty Clerk)

14 December 1980

*Copied to Chequers
and approved.*

*Resident Clerk informed
6.20 p.m. 14/12/80)*

GPS 180
UNCLASSIFIED

FM LISBON 141115Z

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 249 OF 14 DECEMBER 80

MIPT

APPOINTMENT OF NEW PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER : MESSAGES

1. I THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM YOURSELF AND THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD BE DELIVERED QUICKLY. THERE IS NO NEED FOR US TO WAIT FOR THE OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT. I THINK THAT MESSAGES SHOULD BE DELIVERED TOMORROW MORNING IN WHICH CASE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THEY COULD ARRIVE BY 1030.

2. A SUGGESTED TEXT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE:
QUOTE. MAY I OFFER YOU MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND ON YOUR SELECTION BY YOUR PARTY FOR THE POST OF PRIME MINISTER. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN THE FUTURE AND I HOPE THAT WE SHALL HAVE AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO MEET. UNQUOTE.

3. YOUR OWN MESSAGE MIGHT BE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:
QUOTE. I WAS DELIGHTED TO LEARN THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THAT YOUR PARTY HAVE CHOSEN YOU TO BE THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER OF PORTUGAL. I REMEMBER WITH PLEASURE OUR MEETINGS LAST YEAR IN LONDON AND THIS YEAR IN LISBON. WE SHALL LOOK FORWARD VERY MUCH TO WORKING WITH YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES. UNQUOTE.

MORAN

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

LIMITED

SED

PS

PS/LPS

PS/PUS

MR BULLARD

MR FERGUSSON

GPS 170
UNCLASSIFIED

FM LISBON 141059Z

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 247 OF 14 DEC 88

APPOINTMENT OF NEW PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER

1. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY LAST NIGHT ELECTED DR FRANCISCO PINTO BALSEMAO PRESIDENT OF THE PARTY AND DECIDED TO PUT HIS NAME FORWARD FOR PRIME MINISTER. THE FORMATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS TO BE DISCUSSED ON 15 DECEMBER BY THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE BUT THE CENTRISTS AND MONARCHISTS HAVE ALREADY INDICATED THAT THEY CAN ACCEPT BALSEMAO. PRESIDENT EANES HAS ALREADY SAID THAT HE WILL ACCEPT WHOEVER THE ALLIANCE CHOOSE.
2. IT THEREFORE LOOKS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT BALSEMAO WILL LEAD THE NEXT GOVERNMENT. BALSEMAO SAID LAST NIGHT THAT WOULD ONLY BE PREPARED TO LEAD A STRONG GOVERNMENT, TO CONTINUE SA CARNEIRO'S POLICIES. THIS MEANS I THINK THAT THE ONLY CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH HE WOULD DECLINE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT WOULD BE IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF A NUMBER OF SENIOR ALLIANCE FIGURES REFUSING TO SERVE UNDER HIM. FREITAS DO AMARAL LAST NIGHT REAFFIRMED, DESPITE LAST MINUTE PRESSURE FROM HIS PARTY, HIS DECISION NOT TO SERVE IN THE NEXT GOVERNMENT.
3. RECOMMENDATION S ON MESSAGES FOLLOW IN MIFT.

MORAN

FCO/WHITEHALL
SED