

OPS 251

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TELELETTER

FROM J W R SHAKESPEARE, LISBON

014/1

27 AUGUST 1981

FOLLOWING FOR A C HUNT, SED, FCO

MESSAGE ON APPOINTMENT OF PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER

1. WE HAVE BEEN AGONISING TOGETHER WITH OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES OVER THE PROBLEM OF WHETHER WE SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT SEND A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO PINTO BALSEMAO ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS PRIME MINISTER OF THE VIIIITH CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.
2. OUR INITIAL REACTION WAS THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO SEND A MESSAGE, AS BALSEMAO HAD NEVER TECHNICALLY CEASED TO BE PRIME MINISTER. HOWEVER WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GERMAN AND AMERICAN EMBASSIES (AND NO DOUBT MOST OF THE OTHERS WHEN THEY HAVE PUT THEIR MINDS TO IT) WILL BE SENDING MESSAGES FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS ON THE OCCASION OF THE VIII GOVERNMENT'S SWEARING IN. I THINK IT IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, THAT WE SEND ONE TOO.
3. A SUGGESTED TEXT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE MIGHT BE:
'MAY I OFFER YOU MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS PRIME MINISTER OF THE EIGHTH CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. I LOOK FORWARD VERY MUCH TO WORKING WITH YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES'.
4. A SUITABLE MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY OF STATE TO GONCALVES PEREIRA, ASSUMING THAT HE RETURNS AS FOREIGN MINISTER MIGHT BE:
''MAY I SEND YOU MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE VIIIITH CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. I LOOK FORWARD VERY MUCH TO CONTINUING OUR CLOSE COLLABORATION''.
IF GONCALVES PEREIRA DOES NOT CONTINUE WE SHALL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO DRAFT A DIFFERENT MESSAGE.
5. AS WE EXPECT THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OFFICE IN THE FIRST OR SECOND WEEK OF SEPTEMBER, I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR A TELEGRAPHIC REPLY.

SIGNED... J W R SHAKESPEARE

7 SEP 1981



Portugal

TOP COPY

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FM FCO 031908Z SEPTEMBER 81
TO ROUTINE LISBON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 79 OF 3 SEPTEMBER 1981.

SHAKESPEARE'S TELELETTER OF 27 AUGUST TO HUNT

MESSAGE ON APPOINTMENT OF PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER

1. A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO BALSEMAO AS SUGGESTED IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE TELELETTER UNDER REFERENCE WILL FOLLOW BY BAG. PLEASE ARRANGE FOR ITS DELIVERY WHEN THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS SWORN IN.

2. I SHALL SEND A SIMILAR MESSAGE THROUGH YOU TO THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER ON HIS APPOINTMENT.

CARRINGTON

LIMITED
SED
PS
MR FERGUSSON

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FILE

ds

Portugal

3 September 1981

RF for tel. to T

Message to the Portuguese Prime Minister

The Prime Minister has seen and approved the draft message to Dr. Balsemao enclosed with your letter to me of 1 September. I should be grateful if you could arrange for its despatch.

MODBA

F.N. Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RF

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH



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Prime Minister

1 September 1981

Apex list?

yes no

Phd 49

Dear Willie,

Message to the Portugues Prime Minister
in his Reappointment

Dr Francisco Pinto Balsemao was nominated Prime Minister designate of Portugal by President Eanes on 25 August. We expect the new government to be sworn in early in September (a date has not yet been fixed). Lord Carrington recommends that the Prime Minister should send a message of congratulations to Dr Balsemao for delivery by HM Embassy Lisbon when the Government is sworn in.

I enclose a draft.

Yours ever,

Francis Richards

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

W Rickett Esq
10 Downing Street

(RESTRICTED)

1-1 SEP 1981

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DSR 11 (Revised)

DRAFT: ~~minute~~/letter/~~telex~~/~~dispatch~~/~~note~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: The Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: His Excellency Dr Francisco
Pinto Balsemão
Lisbon

Your Reference

Top Secret

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SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

May I offer you my warmest congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister of the Eighth Constitutional Government. I look forward very much to working with you and your colleagues.

Enclosures—flag(s).....