

Subject - a master
eps.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T64⁸/84 TOP COPY

UNCLASSIFIED

15513 - 1

OO LISBON
GRS 137
UNCLASSIFIED

FM FCO 261700Z APR 84
TO IMMEDIATE LISBON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 100 OF 26 APRIL
ACCIDENT AT VALONGO

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE URGENTLY FROM THE PRIME
MINISTER TO DR SOARES.

BEGINS: I WAS DEEPLY DISTRESSED TO LEARN OF THE SERIOUS ACCIDENT
WHICH OCCURRED AT VALONGO NEAR OPORTO TODAY. FOLLOWING MY
RECENT VISIT TO PORTUGAL AND THE WARM WELCOME AFFORDED TO ME I
FEEL PARTICULARLY SADDENED BY WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND ASK YOU TO
ACCEPT MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY. I AM ALSO SENDING A MESSAGE TO ENG.
PAULO VALLADA, THE MAYOR OF OPORTO. ENDS

2. PLEASE ALSO PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO
MAYOR OF OPORTO.

BEGINS: SO SOON AFTER MY VISIT TO YOUR BEAUTIFUL CITY I WAS
SHOCKED AND SADDENED TO LEARN OF THE TRAGIC ACCIDENT AT VALONGO
THIS MORNING. PLEASE CONVEY MY SINCERE SYMPATHY TO ALL WHO HAVE
SUFFERED THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES OR INJURY. ENDS

HOWE

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LIMITED
SED
NEWS D
PS/LADY YOUNG
SIR J BULLARD
MR JENKINS

1

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 April 1984

for Mr.

You asked for advice on the desirability of the Prime Minister sending messages of sympathy to Dr Soares and the Mayor of Oporto following this morning's accident involving a bus and train at Valongo near Oporto.

We have checked the agency story with our Embassy in Lisbon and the facts appear clear. The collision, some 12 miles east of Oporto, has resulted in 20 - 30 deaths with many others, who are seriously injured, receiving treatment in nearby hospitals.


In view of the Prime Minister's recent return from Portugal the Ambassador warmly supports the proposal for such messages, which could be delivered through his channels. I enclose a draft telegram.

Yours on
R B Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

F E R Butler Esq
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

	Classification and Caveats UNCLASSIFIED	Precedence/Deskby IMMEDIATE

ZCZC 1 ZCZC
 GRS 2 GRS
 CLASS 3 UNCLASSIFIED
 CAVEATS 4
 DESKBY 5
 FM FCO 6 FM FCO
 PRE/ADD 7 TO IMMEDIATE LISBON
 TEL NO 8 TELEGRAM NUMBER
 9 ACCIDENT AT VALONGO
 10 1. Please pass the following message urgently from the Prime
 11 Minister to Dr Soares.
 12 BEGINS: I was deeply distressed to learn of the serious accident
 13 which occurred at Valongo near Oporto today. Following my
 14 recent visit to Portugal and the warm welcome afforded to me I
 15 feel particularly saddened by what has happened and ask you to
 16 accept my deepest sympathy. I am also sending a message to Eng.
 17 Paulo Vallada, the Mayor of Oporto. ENDS
 18 2. Please also pass following message from Prime Minister to
 19 Mayor of Oporto.
 20 BEGINS: So soon after my visit to your beautiful city I was
 21 shocked and saddened to learn of the tragic accident at Valongo
 22 this morning. Please convey my sincere sympathy to all who have
 23 suffered the loss of loved ones or injury. ENDS
 24
 25 HOWE NNNN

ms

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
File number	Dept	Distribution PS PS/Lady Young Sir J Bullard Mr Jenkins SED News Dept
Drafted by (Block capitals) PRIVATE SECRETARY		
Telephone number 233 4831		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

26 MAR 1984



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BRITISH EMBASSY,
LISBON.

8 May 1984

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Letter submitted

to P.R.

*MR 14.
5*

Dear John,

I enclose a letter from Dr Mario Soares to the Prime Minister which I have been asked to convey. As I have already reported to you in my letter of 2 May, Dr Soares was clearly very touched by the message inscribed for him by the Prime Minister on her photograph.

Yours ever

H C Byatt
H C Byatt

British Telecom telegram, 02 May 1984/1252

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GBXX CO PCLX 129

Oporto TELEX 129/119 2 1228

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The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher FRS MP
10 Downing Street
LONDON

Prime Minister.

To see.

A.S.C. 1/5

Your excellency,

I was greatly touched by the expression of sympathy for the victims of the tragic accident that occurred at Valongo. It was indeed a further gesture [words unreadable] to all those who had the privilege of coming into contact with your excellency during the short visit you paid to the city of Oporto.

In this connection, I should like to reaffirm to your excellency that you may count on me to do my utmost to strengthen and tighten the bonds of ancient friendship existing between our two countries, in particular the north of the country where the British colony is distinguished by its entrepreneurial prestige and dynamism.

[Complimentary close]

mf

Paulo Valada,
Chairman of the City Council
of Oporto

Portoona
Relations
June 79

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PORTO TELEX 129/119 2 1228

THE RT HON MARGARETE THATCHER FRS MP

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON

EXCELENCIA

FIQUEI EXTREMAMENTE SENSIBILIZADO PELA MANIFESTACAO DE
SOLIDARIEDADE DEMONSTRADA PARA COM AS VITIMAS DO TRAGICO
ACIDENTE OCORRIDO EM VALONGO CREIA QUE FOI MAIS UM GESTO BOUNE
CALOU FUNDO A TODOS AQUELES QUE TIVERAM O PRIVILEGIO DE
CONTACTAR COM VEXAS DURANTE A CURTA VISITA QUE EFECTUOU
A CIDADE DO PORTO

A ESTE PROPOSTO RENOVO A VEXA OS PROTESTOS DA MINHA INTEIRA
DISPONIBILIDADE PARA REFORCAR E ESTREITAR OS LACOS DE AMIZADE
SECULAR EXISTENTES ENTRE OS NOSSOS DOIS PAISES, EM PARTICULAR
O NORTE DO PAIS ONDE A COLONIA BRITANICA SE DESTACA PELO SEU
PRESTIGIO E DINAMISMO EMPRESARIAL

CREIA-ME ATENTAMENTE COM OS MELHORES CUMPRIMENTOS
PAULO VALADA PRESIDENTE DA CAMARA MUNICIPAL DO PORTO

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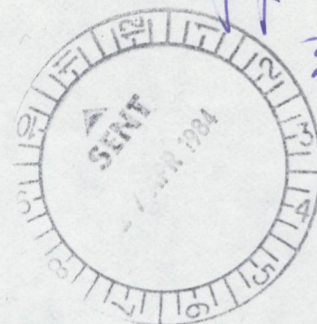
Telegram

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DISTRIBUTION Prime Minister
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CONFIDENTIAL



GRS 120
CONFIDENTIAL
FM LISBON 271739Z APR 84
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 156 OF 27 APRIL 1984

YOUR TELN O 100 OF 26 APRIL: ACCIDENT AT VALONGO

1. I PASSED THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIPT TO DR SOARES'S PRIVATE SECRETARY. HE WAS MOST GRATEFUL AND ASSURED ME TEXT WOULD BE SHOWN TO SOARES AS SOON AS HE RETURNED TO HIS OFFICE. TEXT HAS ALSO BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO PORTUGUESE PRESS.
2. MESSAGE TO MAYOR OF OPORTO WAS ALSO PASSED IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE AND CONFIRMATORY TEXT DELIVERED BY HM CONSUL, OPORTO. I HAVE SINCE SPOKEN TO THE MAYOR WHO WAS MUCH TOUCHED.

BYATT

ms

LIMITED
SED
NEWS DEPT
AS/LADY YOUNG
SIR J BALLARD
MR JENKIN

CONFIDENTIAL

File

259

~~Handwritten scribble~~

27 April 1984

Thank you for your letter of 26 April to Robin Butler.

As I told you on the telephone yesterday evening, the Prime Minister agrees the draft messages to Dr. Soares and the Mayor of Oporto which were attached to your letter. I should be grateful if you would arrange for them to be transmitted as soon as possible.

bf

David Barclay

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Handwritten signature