



EMBAIXADA DE PORTUGAL

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**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T142/80
SUBJECT**

MESSAGE

Dear Prime Minister,

A decision is to be taken by the Council of Ministers of the EEC next Tuesday, the 22nd of July, in Brussels, on pre-accession aid to Portugal.

You will recall that the Portuguese Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs talked about this during the official meeting with you on the 19th May, in Downing Street.

All the details are well known to your government, but I would like to stress how important it is for us that a positive decision is taken.

Full democracy and stability in Portugal are not yet entirely achieved and we very much need to reinforce them with a clear and positive act of European solidarity in order to strengthen our economic and social structures.

After President Giscard's statements, which have had a very negative impact on Portuguese public opinion, if we get now a negative decision on pre-accession aid I very much fear for the whole idea of Europe and of our integration in the EEC. We invested a lot, politically, in this issue because the whole concept of pre-accession aid was first suggested to us by the EEC itself and therefore we never thought that a veto could be subsequently possible at the moment of the final decision.

We have, however, been informed that the only member country who might oppose a positive decision next week in Brussels is Britain.

I don't need of course to stress to you how big a damage it would cause to the long lasting friendship and alliance between Britain and Portugal that an eventual veto on pre-accession aid to Portugal should come from Britain.

I am sure you fully understand the meaning and implications of this issue. I ask you to look at it in a favourable way and to give a positive answer to our case. I entirely count on your solidarity towards Portugal.

Yours sincerely,

Francisco Sa Carneiro
Prime Minister of Portugal

15 July 1980