



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 January 1983

Prime Minister:

Agree to send message? JFH/11

Dear John,

Tokyo have reported the sudden death of Mr Ichiro Nakagawa, who was Director-General of the Science and Technology Agency at the time of Mrs Thatcher's visit to Japan last September and in that capacity acted as her escort on two of the out of town visits. Mr Nakagawa was subsequently a candidate in the election for the Presidency of the LDP held in November and won by Mr Nakasone. Aged 57 (relatively young for a leading Japanese politician) he was never likely to win the position of Prime Minister at this attempt, and his factional support (he was on the right wing of the LDP) was relatively small. However he was a prominent politician and could well have advanced to greater things.

HM Ambassador in Tokyo has recommended that the Prime Minister might send a message of sympathy to Mr Nakagawa's widow. I enclose a draft telegram containing a possible form of words.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles 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 TOKYO	
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER	
	9	YOUR TELNO 10: NAKAGAWA'S DEATH	
	10	1. Please pass the following message from Prime Minister to	
	11	Mrs Nakagawa:	
	12	BEGINS:'I have just learned, on my return from an overseas trip,	
	13	of your husband's sad and premature death. I remember with	
	14	pleasure Mr Nakagawa's courteous help when he guided me to	
	15	Tsukuba and Tokai Mura during my visit to Japan last September.	
	16	It is very sad that his political career should have been cut	
	17	short in so tragic a fashion. Please accept my sincere	
	18	condolences.' ENDS	
	19		
	20	PYM	
	21	NNNN	
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	25		

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
File number	Dept PRIVATE OFFICE	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals) J E HOLMES		
Telephone number		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

Japan



10 DOWNING STREET

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Following the Foreign Office letter of 11 January we received the attached telegram Tokyo No.14 of 1983 which suggested that the Prime Minister need not send a message of sympathy to Mr. Nakagawa's widow. The FCO concurred with that advice and withdrew the letter.

12 January 1983

LDX QW 124

LDW NR 224/12

OO F C O DESKBY 120900Z

GRS 50

UNCLASSIFIED

DESKBY 120900Z

FM TOKYO 120330Z JAN 83

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 14 OF 12/1/83

NY TELNO 10: NAKAGAWA'S DEATH.

1. REPORTS NOW MAKE IT CLEAR THAT NAKAGAWA COMMITTED SUICIDE. I SHALL STILL ATTEND THE FUNERAL SERVICE BUT, IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, SUGGEST THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND A MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY.

CORTAZZI

NNNN

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

PS
PS/Lord Belstead
PS/Mr Riffkind
PS/PUS
Mr Giffard
Mr Donald
VAD/FED.
No 10 G.S. (3)
RC
(10)

Japan 2

PRIME MINISTER

You may like to know that Mr. Ichiro
Nakagawa, the Director-General of the Science
and Technology Agency of Japan who escorted
you on two of your out of town visits last
year, has died. Reports suggest that it was
suicide.

_____ ?
_____ .

IF

Thank you
for
info

12 January 1983