

cc/Marter
Ops

16.10.79

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT
DOS SANTOS

I send you my congratulations and best wishes on your assuming office as President. I look forward to the strengthening of relations between Britain and Angola in the years ahead.

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. ...T120A/79T

Angola



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 October 1979

Angola

We spoke last night on the telephone about the draft message of congratulations from the Prime Minister to President Dos Santos of Angola enclosed with your letter to me of 12 October. We agreed that the word 'friendly' should be deleted from the text.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

ASO

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

*Prime Minister
Agree to it?*

12 October 1979

Dear Michael,

Angola

see Report, Sept 79, Neto

You will recall (my letter of 11 September) that the Prime Minister agreed to send a message of condolence on the death of President Neto of Angola. The Acting President, Senhor Eduardo Dos Santos, took office as President of Angola on 20 September.

Dos Santos was born in 1942 and at 37 is one of the youngest African Heads of State. He was appointed Foreign Minister of Angola on independence in 1975, and later became Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning. As one of the late President Neto's closest supporters and collaborators, he seems likely to continue Neto's moves towards a rapprochement with the West.

Technically, the appointment of Dos Santos is subject to confirmation by a Party Congress next year; but it is expected that this will be automatic, and many Western Heads of State and/or Government, including the Presidents of France, Germany and Italy and the Sovereigns of Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands, have sent congratulatory messages.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary therefore considers it would be appropriate for the Prime Minister to send a congratulatory message. I enclose a draft telegram which we might send to HM Ambassador, Luanda.

*Not that message -!
Send a message see above
not*

*yours ever
Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON

File No.
Department CAfD
Drafted by SANKEY
(Block Capitals)
Tel. Extn 233 4176

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(TEXT)

PRESIDENT DOS SANTOS

1. Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister to the President:

'I send you my congratulations and best wishes on your assuming office as President. I look forward to the strengthening of ^{wilkinson contacts?} ~~friendly~~ relations between Britain and Angola in the years ahead'.

12 OCT 1979

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