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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 June 1982

Please type letter.

A.F.C. 16/6.

Dear John,

As you know, the Togolese have been consistently helpful to the UK during the Falklands dispute. As a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, they supported Resolution 502 and abstained in the final vote on 4 June, an act of considerable political courage in view of the general non-aligned movement's position. We understand that President Eyadema himself has been instrumental in determining Togolese policy on this issue.

Togo has provided this support despite the fact that she receives no bilateral capital aid from the UK and only a tiny amount of technical assistance, and despite the absence of a permanent British presence in Lome (our High Commissioner in Accra, Mr Mellon, is accredited to Togo on a non-resident basis). So far, our gratitude to the Togolese has been expressed in a letter from Mr Onslow to the Foreign Minister early in May. More recently, Mr Mellon has also conveyed the Secretary of State's personal thanks to the Togolese Foreign Minister. Mr Mellon has now suggested that President Eyadema's continuing co-operation would be more assured if the President were to receive a message of appreciation from the Prime Minister.

Togo will be a member of the Security Council until the end of 1983. We need to keep them on our side in the months to come and a message from the Prime Minister would be an effective and economical way of achieving this. I therefore attach the draft of a message which Mrs Thatcher might wish

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to send to President Eyadema. Sir John Leahy is visiting Togo later this month and an opportunity should arise during his visit to hand over the message with due ceremony.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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