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SUBJECT



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T200/83

30.11.83

THE PRIME MINISTER

I have just spent a week in New Delhi at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. You may have seen the Communique which we issued and I thought that you might like to have some comments on the background to it.

We meet every two years in different capitals. This year in New Delhi I was very conscious of the pervasive influence of the Non-Aligned Movement's philosophy. The great majority of Commonwealth countries today consider themselves as non-aligned, and the language of the Communique inevitably reflects this.

You will have seen that we issued a Declaration on International Security. It is by no means an ideal document but you should have seen the earlier versions! I hope it will cause you no particular difficulty. We worked on it during our weekend in Goa and I got out a lot of the unsatisfactory language. It is now in pretty general terms and concentrates on the need for dialogue. I know that you support constructive dialogue - as I do - and we can point to the fact that it is the Soviet Union which is preventing it by walking out of the INF talks. The Communique also gave general encouragement to Pierre Trudeau's efforts - but we have made it clear that we have a number of doubts about his specific proposals. In particular, I do not believe that his proposal for a conference of the five nuclear powers is helpful, at least in present circumstances. He of course remains very keen on his initiative and visited China during the meeting.

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As regards the Declaration on Economic Action my purpose was to avoid a commitment to yet another major conference and to do nothing which would weaken existing international monetary institutions. I think we achieved this.

Our discussions over Grenada came out well. At our first meeting some very strong and hostile views were expressed by African and other countries. The OECS countries responded well and effectively, and we subsequently dealt with the passage for the Communique as some length at Goa. My own position was that we should not go over past events but look to the future - as summed up in the phrase from the Communique "reconstruction not recrimination". That is what I shall be continuing to emphasise.

The discussion on Grenada led us to consider in some depth the problems facing small states. This too is reflected in the Communique. The Commonwealth Secretary General will be undertaking a study on how best to assure the independence and integrity of those small territories which cannot defend themselves but which want to remain free. We are also working on this within our own administration in London. I am sure it is something which we must all think carefully about, and we shall keep in touch with you as our ideas develop.

In other respects the meeting covered familiar ground, which I need not bother you with. But Oliver Wright can give any clarification which your people or the State Department may want.

With best wishes.

The President of the United States of America

SUBJECT

see Ops Master

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PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T200/83

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TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2018 OF 30 NOVEMBER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT REAGN ON CHOGM

1. PLEASE DELIVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENT DESCRIBING THE OUTCOME OF CHOGM.

BEGINS: I HAVE JUST SPENT A WEEK IN NEW DELHI AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING. YOU MAY HAVE SEEN THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH WE ISSUED AND I THOUGHT THAT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO HAVE SOME COMMENTS ON THE BACKGROUND TO IT.

WE MEET EVERY TWO YEARS IN DIFFERENT CAPITALS. THIS YEAR IN NEW DELHI I WAS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE PERVASIVE INFLUENCE OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT'S PHILOSOPHY. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES TODAY CONSIDER THEMSELVES AS NON-ALIGNED, AND THE LANGUAGE OF THE COMMUNIQUE INEVITABLY REFLECTS THIS.

YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THAT WE ISSUED A DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY. IT IS BY NO MEANS AN IDEAL DOCUMENT BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE EARLIER VERSIONS EXCLAM I HOPE IT WILL CAUSE YOU NO PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY. WE WORKED ON IT DURING OUR WEEKEND IN GOA AND I GOT OUT A LOT OF THE UNSATISFACTORY LANGUAGE. IT IS NOW IN PRETTY GENERAL TERMS AND CONCENTRATES ON THE NEED FOR DIALOGUE. I KNOW THAT YOU SUPPORT CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE - AS I DO - AND WE CAN POINT TO THE FACT THAT IT IS THE SOVIET UNION WHICH IS PREVENTING IT BY WALKING OUT OF THE INF TALKS. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO GAVE GENERAL ENCOURAGEMENT TO PIERRE TRUDEAU'S EFFORTS - BUT WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE HAVE A NUMBER OF DOUBTS ABOUT HIS SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. IN PARTICULAR, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HIS PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE OF THE FIVE NUCLEAR POWERS IS HELPFUL, AT LEAST IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. HE OF COURSE REMAINS VERY KEEN ON HIS INITIATIVE AND VISITED CHINA

DURING THE MEETING.

AS REGARDS THE DECLARATION ON ECONOMIC ACTION MY PURPOSE WAS TO AVOID A COMMITMENT TO YET ANOTHER MAJOR CONFERENCE AND TO DO NOTHING WHICH WOULD WEAKEN EXISTING INTERNATIONAL MONETARY INSTITUTIONS. I THINK WE ACHIEVED THIS.

OUR DISCUSSIONS OVER GRENADA CAME OUT WELL. AT OUR FIRST MEETING SOME VERY STRONG AND HOSTILE VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED BY AFRICAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES. THE OECS COUNTRIES RESPONDED WELL AND EFFECTIVELY, AND WE SUBSEQUENTLY DEALT WITH THE PASSAGE FOR THE COMMUNIQUE AT SOME LENGTH IN GOA. MY OWN POSITION WAS THAT WE SHOULD NOT GO OVER PAST EVENTS BUT LOOK TO THE FUTURE - AS SUMMED UP IN THE PHRASE FROM THE COMMUNIQUE 'RECONSTRUCTION NOT RECRIMINATION'. THAT IS WHAT I SHALL BE CONTINUING TO EMPHASISE.

THE DISCUSSION ON GRENADA LED US TO CONSIDER IN SOME DEPTH THE PROBLEMS FACING SMALL STATES. THIS TOO IS REFLECTED IN THE COMMUNIQUE. THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL WILL BE UNDERTAKING A STUDY ON HOW BEST TO ASSURE THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF THOSE SMALL TERRITORIES WHICH CANNOT DEFEND THEMSELVES BUT WHICH WANT TO REMAIN FREE. WE ARE ALSO WORKING ON THIS WITHIN OUR OWN ADMINISTRATION IN LONDON. I AM SURE IT IS SOMETHING WHICH WE MUST ALL THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT, AND WE SHALL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU AS OUR IDEAS DEVELOP.

IN OTHER RESPECTS THE MEETING COVERED FAMILIAR GROUND, WHICH I NEED NOT BOTHER YOU WITH. BUT OLIVER WRIGHT CAN GIVE ANY CLARIFICATION WHICH YOUR PEOPLE OR THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY WANT.

WITH BEST WISHES. ENDS

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PLANNING STAFF
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PS LADY YOUNG
PS/MR LUCE
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
SIR J LEAHY
SIR C TICKELL
MR GIFFARD
MR GARTLEDGE
MR SQUIRE
MR THOMAS

CONFIDENTIAL



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

30 November, 1983

CHOGM: MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN

The Prime Minister indicated in New Delhi that she wished to send a message to President Reagan describing the outcome of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Mrs. Thatcher has since considered a draft prepared by the U.K. Delegation and has authorised the despatch of the enclosed message. I should be grateful if you could arrange for Sir Oliver Wright to deliver it as soon as possible.

E. I. DOLES

B. Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

MS

Dear Ron,

I have just spent a week in New Delhi at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. You may have seen the Communique which we issued and I thought that you might like to have some comments on the background to it.

We meet every two years in different capitals. This year in New Delhi I was very conscious of the pervasive influence of the Non-Aligned Movement's philosophy. ~~Mrs Gandhi is of course the current Chairman.~~ The great majority of Commonwealth countries today consider themselves as non-aligned, and the language of the Communique inevitably reflects this.

You will have seen that we issued a Declaration on International Security. It is by no means an ideal document but you should have seen the earlier versions! I hope it will cause you no particular difficulty. We worked on it during our weekend in Goa and I got out a lot of the ~~[extreme or highly coloured or]~~ unsatisfactory language. It is now in pretty general terms and concentrates on the need for dialogue. I know that you support constructive dialogue - as I do - and we can point to the fact that it is the Soviet Union which is preventing it by walking out of the INF talks. The Communique also gave general encouragement to Pierre Trudeau's efforts - but we have made it clear that we have a number of doubts about his specific proposals. He of course remains very keen on his initiative and visited China during the meeting.

US Declassified

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The discussion on Grenada led us to consider in some depth the problems facing small states. This too is reflected in the Communique. The Commonwealth Secretary General will be undertaking a study on how best to assure the independence and integrity of those small territories which cannot defend themselves but which want to remain free. We are also working on this within our own administration in London. I am sure it is something which we must all think carefully about, and we shall keep in touch with you as our ideas develop.

In other respects the meeting covered familiar ground, which I need not bother you with. But Oliver Wright can give any clarification which your people or the State Department may want.

With best wishes,

Yours ever,

Margaret.