

Manthorpe

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 7172A/80

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GRS 81
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FM FCO 111500Z SEPT 80
TO ROUTINE PORT LOUIS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 131 OF 11 SEPTEMBER
YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 159: RAMGOOLAM'S 80TH BIRTHDAY
1. PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME
MINISTER TO SIR S RAMGOOLAM ON 18 SEPTEMBER.

BEGINS
I SEND YOU MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR
EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY. YOUR RECORD OF SERVICE TO YOUR COUNTRY
IS EXCEPTIONAL AND YOUR COUNSELS ARE HIGHLY VALUED BY FELLOW
MEMBERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH. WITH EVERY GOOD WISH.
ENDS

CARRINGTON

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SIR L ALLISON
MR DAY

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Maurice

10 September 1980

Dr The Rt Hon Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 9 September proposing that she send a congratulatory birthday message to Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam. The Prime Minister has approved the text enclosed with your letter.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

M A Arthur, Esq
Lord Privy Seal's Office

cc.



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Agree with?

Pratt
Yes
not.

9 September 1980

Dear Mike

DR THE RT HON SIR SEEWOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM GCMG MLA

The Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, celebrates his 80th birthday on 18 September. He has dominated the politics of his country for nearly 40 years and has been in charge of Mauritian affairs so long that his career is synonymous with the recent political history of this country. He was appointed Chief Minister in 1962, was made a Privy Councillor in 1964 and became Prime Minister in 1967, leading his country to Independence in the following year. Throughout his career Sir Seewoosagur has been a good friend of Britain.

Sir Ian Gilmour thinks that the Prime Minister may therefore wish to send a congratulatory birthday message to Sir Seewoosagur. No other Commonwealth leader has attained such an age still in office and with so long an unbroken period as first minister (the Prime Minister of Trinidad has longer service, but is somewhat younger). Sir S Ramgoolam values his links with Britain and a message from the Prime Minister, whom he has seen twice this year, would give much pleasure. If this is agreed, Mrs Thatcher may like to send a message on the lines of the attached draft telegram.

/Mr Luce

M A Pattison Esq
10 Downing Street



Mr Luce, who visited Mauritius in June, proposes to send a personal message.

Mauritius is a Realm, and we understand The Queen will be sending a message as Queen of Mauritius.

Yours ever

Mitchell Arthur

M A Arthur
Private Secretary to the
Lord Privy Seal

File No.
Department EAST AFRICAN
Drafted by J A ROBSON/MO' C
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TELEGRAM

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[TEXT]

Your telegram number 159; RAMGOOLAM's 80th BIRTHDAY

1. Please convey the following message from the Prime Minister to Sir S Ramgoolam on 18 September.

BEGINS

I send you my warm congratulations on the occasion of your eightieth birthday. Your record of service to your country is exceptional and your counsels ^{are} ~~continue~~ highly valued by fellow members of the Commonwealth.

With every good wish.

ENDS

CARRINGTON

MT