

New Zealand  
PS

ADVANCE COPY

LDX 253/30  
JWELDAR 702/30

Fcolw4

PS/4PS

PS/1PS

La. Amt

MR DONALD

Uluf SPD

Uluf NEWS D

00 FCO DESKBY 300900Z

GRS 200

RESTRICTED  
DESKBY 300900Z

FM WELLINGTON 292355Z NOV 81  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 307 OF 30 NOVEMBER

PS/NO 10  
DOWNING ST

MY TELNO 306: NZ GENERAL ELECTION.

1. THIS IS WORST POSSIBLE RESULT FOR NEW ZEALAND. ASSUMING NO CHANGES WHEN FINAL COUNTING IS COMPLETE THERE WILL BE A MINORITY NATIONAL GOVERNMENT GOVERNING BY CONSENT OF SOCIAL CREDIT.

2. LATTER ARE MAJOR WINNERS. ALTHOUGH THEY STILL ONLY HAVE TWO SEATS, THEY INCREASED SHARE OF POPULAR VOTE FROM 15.9 PERCENT TO 20.8 PERCENT AND HOLD BALANCE OF POWER. BOTH MAIN PARTIES LOST GROUND, LABOUR MORE SO IN POPULAR VOTE TERMS, ALTHOUGH IRREGULARITIES IN SWING ENSURED THEY GAINED SEATS.

3. PRIME MINISTER HAS ANNOUNCED NATIONAL EXPECT TO COMPLETE 3-YEAR TERM ON ASSUMPTION SOCIAL CREDIT WILL HONOUR PLEDGE NOT TO VOTE AGAINST GOVERNMENT ON CONFIDENCE MOTIONS. PARLIAMENT DOES NOT HAVE TO CONVENE UNTIL MAY NEXT BUT PRESSURE FOR EARLIER CONVENING WILL CERTAINLY GROW IF FINAL TALLIES GIVE NATIONAL AND LABOUR SAME NUMBER OF SEATS, WHICH IS PERFECTLY POSSIBLE. DESPITE MR MULDOON'S APPARENT OPTIMISM A FURTHER GENERAL ELECTION SEEMS INEVITABLE WITHIN 12-18 MONTHS. IN MEANTIME HE MAY SEEK TO AVOID TAKING UNPOPULAR ECONOMIC DECISIONS THE URGENT NEED FOR WHICH IS BECOMING VERY APPARENT.

4. IN CIRCUMSTANCES WE CANNOT DELIVER A CONGLATULATORY MESSAGE FROM MRS THATCHER (YOUR TELNO 265).

5. LETTER FOLLOWS BY NEXT CONFIDENTIAL BAG.

Resident also informed  
CR 27/14

010



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 November 1981

Home Minister  
Agree texts?  
And

Dear Michael,

New Zealand General Elections

General Elections will be held on Saturday 28 November. So that Mr Stratton, our High Commissioner in Wellington, can hand the winner a message of congratulation from the Prime Minister as soon as possible after the announcement of the result, we propose telegraphing, in advance of the elections, messages covering the two likely results.

I attach drafts of the two messages for the Prime Minister's concurrence.

yours ever  
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

National Victory

Dear Rob,

Many congratulations on your re-election for a third term of office as Prime Minister of New Zealand. I of course look forward to continuing to work very closely with you, in maintaining the many links which bind Britain and New Zealand. May I send my warm good wishes to you and the people of New Zealand for the term ahead.

Yours ever

Margaret Thatcher



Labour Victory

I congratulate you on your election as Prime Minister of New Zealand and wish you every success in discharging the heavy responsibility of your new post. I look forward to continuing the very warm relations between our two countries and extend my best wishes to you and to the people of New Zealand for the term ahead.

