

64

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T123c/84

RESTRICTED

TOP COPY

Subject
4/Thatcher
op-5

32420 - 1

DD FIRST CONTACT WELLINGTON
GRS 302
RESTRICTED
DESKBY FIRST CONTACT
FM FCO 141139Z JUL 84
TO IMMEDIATE WELLINGTON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 180 OF 14 JULY
NEW ZEALAND GENERAL ELECTION

FPZ 014/1	
RECEIVED 16 JUL 1984	
DESK OFFICER	REGISTRY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Action Taken	
	✓ BW

1. YOU ARE AUTHORISED TO DELIVER MESSAGE(S) FROM THE PRIME MINISTER ONCE THE RESULTS ARE KNOWN WITH THE OBVIOUS PROVISIO THAT ONE OF THE TWO MAIN PARTIES CAN COMMAND A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY:

(I) TO SIR ROBERT MULDOON IN THE EVENT OF A NATIONAL PARTY VICTORY: 'DEAR ROB, I AM DELIGHTED TO SEND YOU MY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENT OF RE-ELECTION FOR A FOURTH TERM OF OFFICE AS PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND. I NATURALLY LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH YOU IN MAINTAINING THE MANY LINKS BINDING OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I SEND MY WARMEST GOOD WISHES TO YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF NEW ZEALAND. YOURS EVER, MARGARET THATCHER'.

(II) (A) TO MR DAVID LANGE IN THE EVENT OF A LABOUR PARTY VICTORY: 'I CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR ELECTION AS PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND AND REMEMBER WELL OUR MEETING IN JANUARY. 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.'

(B) TO SIR ROBERT MULDOON IN THE EVENT OF A LABOUR PARTY VICTORY: 'I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS PERSONALLY MY WARM APPRECIATION OF THE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN US AND THE CLOSE LINKS OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE MAINTAINED DURING YOUR YEARS AS PRIME MINISTER. WE WERE PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR STAUNCH SUPPORT FOR OUR ENDEAVOURS IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, AND HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO ARGUE NEW ZEALAND'S CAUSE WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. I

RESTRICTED

32420 - 1

SEND YOU MY BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE.
2. GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD REPORT THE ACTION TAKEN.

HOWE

NNNN

DISTRIBUTION:

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SPD

NEWS D

RESIDENT CLERK

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR WHITNEY

PS/PUS

RESTRICTED

Messages despatched ①
on 14 July CDP 16/7



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

13 July 1984

Agree
contingency
messages?

CDP
13/7

John Archer

Y
hs

New Zealand General Election

As you know, a general election will be held in New Zealand tomorrow, 14 July, and the result should be known in London the same day. To enable our Acting High Commissioner in Wellington to convey to the victor a speedy message of congratulation from the Prime Minister, we suggest that alternative texts should be telegraphed to our High Commission in advance.

I enclose drafts of three messages (including one for Sir Robert Muldoon if he loses) for the Prime Minister's approval. The message to Mr David Lange refers to his call on the Prime Minister last January recorded in David Barclay's letter of 30 January to Peter Ricketts.

Sir Robert Muldoon explained his decision to call a general election this month, rather than in November at the end of his three year term, by saying that, as he had a majority of only one, the refusal of a backbencher (Miss Waring) to take the National Party Whip deprived him of confidence in his Party's ability to govern. Sir Robert's opponents suggest that it was the prospect of mounting economic difficulties which played a major part in the decision to hold an early election.

Sir R Muldoon's campaign started with the advantage of greater personal popularity in the opinion polls than the Labour leader, Mr Lange, and only a slender Labour Party lead to overcome. But, on the hustings, Sir R Muldoon has not shown his customary punch. The Labour Party have drawn the electorate's attention to adverse aspects of the economy (large external debt, unemployment, rising inflation, a flight from the New Zealand dollar). The Labour Party has avoided a detailed statement of its own economic policies. On other issues, Mr Lange has declared his intention to renegotiate the ANZUS treaty and to ban visits by nuclear powered warships. The minor parties have made little impact; but their overall effect is probably more damaging to Sir R Muldoon than to Mr Lange.

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/ The enclosed telegram no 214 from the Acting High Commissioner at Wellington summarises the campaign, the issues and the parties' standing in the opinion polls. Mr Fawcett predicts that the National Party, which has held office for three consecutive terms (each time with a reduced majority) will be replaced by a Labour administration, but not by the large majority which some observers in New Zealand have suggested. In New Zealand, where the electoral balance reflects fine differences between parties and voters' separate preferences for the leaders, predictions about the outcome of an election are especially risky.

If the draft messages are approved, it would perhaps be possible for the Duty Clerk to let the Resident Clerk in the FCO know on Saturday morning. We will then arrange for their despatch.

In his absence today Sir Geoffrey Howe has not seen this letter: I shall be showing him a copy in tonight's box.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R B Bone', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats

RESTRICTED

Precedence/Deskby

IMMEDIATE DESKBY

ZCZC
GRS
CLASS
CAVEATS
DESKBY
FM FCO
PRE/ADD
TEL NO

1 ZCZC
2
3 RESTRICTED
4
5 DESKBY
6 FM FCO 131635Z JUL 84
7 TO IMMEDIATE WELLINGTON
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER
9 NEW ZEALAND GENERAL ELECTION
10 1. You are authorised to deliver message(s) from the Prime
11 Minister once the results are known with the obvious proviso
12 that one of the two main parties can command a parliamentary
13 majority:
14 (i) to Sir Robert Muldoon in the event of a National Party
15 victory: "Dear Rob, I am delighted to send you my
16 congratulations on your achievement of re-election for
17 a fourth term of office as Prime Minister of New Zealand.
18 I naturally look forward to continuing to work very
19 closely with you in maintaining the many links binding
20 our two countries. I send my warmest good wishes to you
21 and the people of New Zealand. Yours ever, Margaret
22 Thatcher".
23 (ii) (a) to Mr David Lange in the event of a Labour Party
24 victory: "I congratulate you on your election as
25 Prime Minister of New Zealand and remember well our

NNNN ends telegram		BLANK	Catchword /meeting
File number		Dept SPD	Distribution Minimal
Drafted by (Block capitals) J S CHICK			PS/Lady Young PS/Mr Whitney
Telephone number 273 4313			PS/PUS News Dept
Authorised for despatch			Resident Clerk
Comcen reference	Time of despatch		

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification and Caveats RESTRICTED	IMMEDIATE DESKBY
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meeting in January. 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."

(b) to Sir Robert Muldoon in the event of a Labour Party victory: "I should like to express personally my warm appreciation of the co-operation between us and the close links our two countries have maintained during your years as Prime Minister. We were particularly grateful for your staunch support for our endeavours in the South Atlantic, and have been happy to argue New Zealand's cause within the European Community. I send you my best wishes for the future."

2. Grateful if you would report the action taken.

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NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
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DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret

Rt Hon Sir R D Muldoon GCMG CH

Secret

Prime Minister

Copies to:

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

[National Victory]

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Dear Rob,

CAVEAT.....

I am delighted to send you my congratulations on your achievement of re-election for a fourth term of office as Prime Minister of New Zealand. I naturally look forward to continuing to work very closely with you in maintaining the many links binding our two countries. I send my warmest good wishes to you and the people of New Zealand.

Yours ever

Margaret Thatcher

Enclosures—flag(s).....

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:
Mr D Lange MP
Prime Minister

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

[Labour Victory]

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

I congratulate you on your election as Prime Minister of New Zealand and remember well our meeting in January. 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.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Rt Hon Sir R D Muldoon GCMG CH

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

Copies to:

[Labour Victory]

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

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Enclosures—flag(s).....