



KS
c/o Portugal

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

16 June 1980

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. 1129/80

ced. PM's Tans Abroad:

*Overseas visits Govt
invites: April 79.*

Dear Prime Minister

Many thanks for your kind message, which was forwarded by your Embassy here on 3 June. I am delighted to hear of your good recovery and of your intention to complete your schedule of visits to Community capitals and Athens. I would be interested to hear your impressions, particularly after your visit to Paris on 1 July. As you know, the British Government will continue to give full support to achieving the timetable you have in mind for Portuguese accession.

I too would very much welcome the opportunity to resume our discussions and to have the sort of thorough talk which your accident prevented our having on 19 May. I am delighted to accept your kind invitation to Lisbon. Unfortunately I could not get away before the summer break and I fully understand that you will be occupied with the electoral campaign during September. Might we fix a date as soon as possible thereafter?

Yours sincerely

(sgd) Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Dr. Francisco Sá Carneiro

KS

PRIME MINISTER

I enclose a draft reply for you to send to the Prime Minister of Portugal.

The Foreign Office have drafted on the assumption that you will not be able to make room for a brief visit in July. August is a holiday month for Portugal and September has to be excluded because of their election campaign. For this reason, dates are left open. But the Foreign Office would be delighted if you felt you were able to visit before August - see note below the draft.

"Dear Prime Minister"

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'MAD' with a flourish underneath.

13 June 1980

2pps



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 June 1980

cc'd. PM's tour abroad: Govt invited:
April 79

Dear Michael,

Portugal: Invitation to the Prime Minister

Thank you for your letter of 4 June enclosing a copy of a message received by the Prime Minister from the Prime Minister of Portugal and asking for a draft reply. I enclose such a draft. You may wish to send it via the Portuguese Embassy, in response to their letter of 3 June, letting me have a copy.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's advice about visiting Portugal was contained in paragraph 4 of our letter of 6 June. As Dr Sa Carneiro himself has now said, September has to be excluded because of the Portuguese election campaign. The choice is between a short visit this month or next (August should be excluded as being a dead month in Portugal), and accepting the invitation in principle, leaving dates to be fixed after the election. Dr Sa Carneiro would evidently prefer an early visit, doubtless considering that it would improve his electoral standing as well as fitting in to his programme of consultations with European leaders. The enclosed draft assumes that the Prime Minister would not wish to make a special effort to go to Lisbon at short notice, but Lord Carrington would see no reason to hesitate if the Prime Minister wanted to go. Our relations with Dr Sa Carneiro's government are excellent; Lord Carrington would welcome it if the government was re-elected in the autumn; a visit in June or July would be sufficiently far ahead of the elections to make it easy to answer any charges of interference.

There would be advantage, following the remarks recently made by the French President about enlargement, in including a reaffirmation of British support for Portuguese accession in any message to Dr Sa Carneiro and the enclosed draft accordingly includes such a statement.

yours ever
Roderic Lyne

PP (P Lever)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

122 MON 1957

10 11 12 1 2 3
4 5 6 7 8 9

122 MON 1957
10 11 12 1 2 3
4 5 6 7 8 9

