



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister (1)

29 November 1984

Agree to send the
attached message?

Dear Charles,

JMS
30/11

Yes MS

Zaire: Possible Message to President Mobutu

During the Prime Minister's discussion with President Mobutu on 27 September she undertook to study carefully the letter he left with her on Zaire's economic problems. Although there is little to add to what the Prime Minister said at the time, a message in response would seem courteous. The main point to be made, apart from a general expression of sympathy and continuing support, would be the need for President Mobutu to maintain his programme of economic reform under IMF guidance.

A further argument in favour of a message from the Prime Minister is the fact that President Mobutu's investiture ceremony for his third term of office will take place on 5 December. At the time of his re-election France and Belgium sent messages of congratulation, and the investiture ceremony will be attended by a number of emissaries from Zaire's neighbours and Western countries including the US, France, Belgium, FRG and Portugal. (We propose to be represented by our Ambassador.) On the occasion of President Mobutu's investiture in 1977 both The Queen and Mr Callaghan sent messages of congratulation. (It would not be appropriate for The Queen to send a second message.)

We remain keen to see more substance in our relations with this large and strategically important pro-Western country, in which we have sizeable investments. For the Prime Minister not to send a message would leave us out of step with our Western allies and would contrast strangely with the 1977 precedent.

We do not think that the arguments for a message from the Prime Minister are invalidated by Zaire's disappointing vote in the UN General Assembly on the Falklands despite a personal appeal when President Mobutu called on the Prime Minister. However regrettable this was, we are more likely to be able to win back Zaire's vote next year if the Prime Minister send a message than if we, alone among Zaire's main

/Western

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Western allies, fail to make any gesture to mark the President's re-election.

We therefore propose that the Prime Minister should send a message, on the lines of the enclosed draft.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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File No. JCG 027/4

Department CAFD

OUTWARD

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(Block Capitals)

TELEGRAM

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[TEXT]

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE

1. Please arrange for the following message from the Prime Minister to be passed to President Mobutu in time for his investiture on 5 December.

Begins.

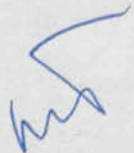
On the occasion of your reinvestiture as President of the Republic of Zaire I send my warm congratulations and best wishes. I am confident that we shall maintain and develop further the friendly relations which exist between our two countries. [new paragraph] I recall with pleasure our meeting in London this September. You then described the vigorous policies you had adopted and would continue to pursue in order to put your country's economy

on a firm basis. I realise that it is not easy to take the robust measures which are so necessary for recovery, and I ~~shall continue to watch your efforts~~ *wish you well in the difficult challenging task that you face.* ~~with much sympathy.~~ I look forward to hearing of

the successful negotiation by you of a successor programme with the International Monetary Fund. We shall, as I told you, be ready to do all we can to help, both in the Paris Club and through our aid under the auspices of the European Development Fund and under our bilateral programme.

Ends.

2. You may inform the press that the Prime Minister has sent a message of congratulation.



NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN