

SUBJECT CC MASTER
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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO. T164/86

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DD 151430Z ATHEN
FM FCOLN TO ATHEN
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FM FCO
TO DESKBY 151430Z ATHENS
TELNO 298
OF 151130Z SEPTEMBER 86

TELECON TORRY/HULSE: PANAYOTIS KANELLOPOULOS

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
TO MR PAPANDREOU:

QUOTE IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS THAT I LEARNED OF THE
DEATH OF PANAYOTIS KANELLOPOULOS. HE WAS AN OUTSTANDING
GREEK STATESMAN AND SCHOLAR, AS WELL AS A DISTINGUISHED
FIGHTER FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY. HE WAS ALSO A WARM
FRIEND OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE. I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS,
THROUGH YOU, MY CONDOLENCES BOTH TO HIS FAMILY AND TO THE
GREEK PEOPLE. UNQUOTE

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Ps

Ps/LADY YOUNG

Mr RATFORD

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CAJ

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

15 September 1986

Thank you for your letter of 15 September suggesting that the Prime Minister should send a message of condolence on the death of Mr. Kanellopoulos. I am sure the Prime Minister would be willing to do so and the message enclosed with your letter may be despatched.

C. D. POWELL

R. N. Culshaw, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

LB



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 September 1986

Prime Minister

Agree this message?

(The funeral is today)

Dear Charles

Panayotis Kanellopoulos, a former Greek Prime Minister and one of the country's most distinguished elder statesmen, died on 11 September. Apart from being a champion of Greek democracy, he was a great friend of Britain and, as deputy Prime Minister of the Greek exile Government in Egypt, one of our closest war-time allies (I attach a personality note). He is to have a State Funeral early next week.

CDP 1579.

Chancellor Kohl and other European leaders are sending messages of condolence. The Foreign Secretary recommends that the Prime Minister does so too. I attach a draft telegram to Athens.

Yours ever

R N Culshaw

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell ESq
No 10 Downing St

KANELLOPOULOS, PANAYOTIS

Former Prime Minister.

Born Pteri 1902. Read law at Athens, Munich and Heidelberg and was the first Professor of Social Sciences at Athens University in 1929. 1935 founded the Nationalist Unionist Party, but had no success in the 1936 elections. Spent most of the Metaxas regime in exile. Escaped to the Middle East in 1942 and became Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence. 1950 formed with Stephanopoulos the "Populist Unionist Party". 1951-5 held several Ministerial posts under Papagos, including that of Deputy Prime Minister. 1955-63, apart from a short period as joint leader of the Populist Party, served as a Minister several times under Karamanlis, sometimes as Deputy Prime Minister. On Karamanlis' departure from Greece in December 1963, the leadership of ERE devolved upon him. 1966-7 having lost in the 1964 election, first supported the Stephanopoulos Government but later agreed with Papandreou on the formation of a caretaker government. When this fell in April 1967 the King appointed him Prime Minister with a mandate to hold elections in the following month. Was placed under house arrest from time to time after April 1967, and following the November 1973 Polytechnic disturbances, which he openly encouraged.


Offered the post of President in June 1975 but turned it down because he assumed (rightly) that Karamanlis would wish to take it on later. Was then put up late as an opposition candidate for the Presidency, apparently against his wishes and was easily and predictably defeated by Karamanlis' candidate, Tsatsos. His personal relations with Karamanlis may also in part have affected his attitude. Karamanlis was at one time married to Kanellopoulos's favourite niece and the marriage broke up in circumstances not very creditable to Karamanlis. His relations with Karamanlis improved with his acceptance of the first place on New Democracy's State List of Deputies in the 1977 elections as an "independent collaborator" with ND, an offer Karamanlis may have made to prevent him joining any other party. Did not stand for re-election in 1985 due to a serious deterioration in his health which is now fragile.

Sees himself as a reconciler, above party politics. A strong supporter of the recognition of EAM/ELAS's role in the national resistance.

Highly cultured and personally likeable. His integrity is unquestioned. Now avoids social life. Corresponded with a number of Western European political leaders, including Herr Brandt and Mr Harold Macmillan. Has written extensively on philosophical and historical subjects, (eg his great History of Western Civilisation). Has always been very friendly towards the British.

Speaks fluent French, German and good English.

OUT TELEGRAM

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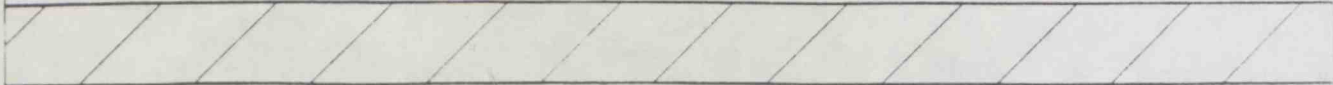
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