

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Nato



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 June 1982

[Handwritten signature]

Dear Sir

Succession to Luns

We spoke yesterday about the Prime Minister's conversation with Chancellor Schmidt. I attach a copy of a self-explanatory minute recording a talk this morning between Mr Pym and Mr Haig.

Prime Minister.

I did not recall your brief exchange with Chancellor Schmidt about how Corrigan had mentioned it only to the Foreign Secretary.

Yours ever
[Handwritten signature]

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

I also attach the brief about the chairmanship of the NATO Military Committee which you saw earlier.

C A Whitmore Esq
10 Downing Street

AMH

8th 82

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Mr Weston - Defence Department

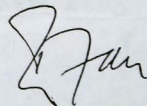
Succession to Luns

The Secretary of State decided, in the light of the Prime Minister's conversation with Chancellor Schmidt at Versailles, that he should have a word with Mr Haig. He duly did so this morning during a brief meeting tete-a-tete.

The Secretary of State mentioned the possibility of Lord Carrington as a successor to Luns, but added that he did not know whether Lord Carrington would be prepared to take the job on if approached. Haig replied that he had not previously thought of the idea of Lord Carrington, but he could not think of anybody who would do the job better. In the course of further conversation he said that the Americans would back Lord Carrington for the job and that things ought to be so organised as to leave him the field to himself.

It may be worth recording also that Haig mentioned Tindemans as someone interested in the job. Haig noted his qualities, but implied that the fact that he came from a small country with no nuclear involvement would stand against him in American eyes. Haig added that the Canadian Foreign Minister MacGuigan was actively interested. Haig liked him, but thought him unsuitable (probably more a comment on the Canadian role in NATO than on MacGuigan personally).

Finally Haig mentioned that the Germans wanted General Brant as Chairman of the Military Committee. Haig thought that he ought to have the job, and suggested that we might bear this in mind when we 'played the Carrington card' with the Germans.



(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

8 June 1982

cd: PS
PS/PUS
Mr Bullard
Mr Wright
Mr Gillmore