

SUBJECT



cc Master
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cc FCO
CDL
Greece

10 DOWNING STREET
PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 44/79 T

THE PRIME MINISTER

12 July 1979

My dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your message of 29 June. I warmly congratulate you on the Greek Parliament's ratification of the Treaty of Accession of Greece to the European Communities. This is an historic step.

I note your request for early ratification of the Treaty by the United Kingdom. You may rest assured that we are going ahead with ratification without delay. The procedures are complicated and will take some time, but I am confident they will be completed well in advance of 1 January 1981.

Yours sincerely
Raymond Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. Constantine Karamanlis

tw

RESTRICTED

Greece



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 July 1979

Dear Mike,

Message from Mr Karamanlis

Thank you for your letter of 2 July enclosing a message from Mr Karamanlis to the Prime Minister sent via the Greek Embassy. I enclose a draft message in reply from the Prime Minister to Mr Karamanlis. This has been approved by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary. Our Embassy in Athens will be instructed to deliver the reply once it has been approved.

Ratification of Treaties is a prerogative of the Crown, but legislation to give effect to certain obligations under the Greek Treaty of Accession is required before the UK can ratify. We shall press ahead with this as quickly as possible. The Government must first decide whether to enact the legislation by Order in Council or by a Bill. The Lord Privy Seal wrote to the Chancellor of the Duchy and OD(E) colleagues last month on this subject. The Chancellor of the Duchy has replied by expressing a preference for an Order in Council but, on his advice, we are seeking the opinion of the Law Officers. We are also urgently examining together with interested Whitehall Departments whether those Departments would need primary legislation or whether we should consider using such legislation to correct any deficiencies which have come to light in the working of the 1972 European Communities Act.

We wish as far as possible to satisfy the Greek desire for early UK ratification, but the decision which legislative procedure to adopt raises sensitive parliamentary and political issues; and the procedures themselves take some time to complete.

The Treaty is due to enter into force on 1 January 1981 and that is the deadline for ratification.

I am copying this letter to John Stevens (Office of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster).

Yours etc

Paul

(P Lever)

Private Secretary

Mike Pattison Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON

RESTRICTED

Registry
No.

DRAFT

Type 1 +

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret,
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Unclassified.

To:—

His Excellency
Mr Constantine Karamanlis
Prime Minister of the Hellenic
Republic

From

PRIME MINISTER

Telephone No. Ext.

Department

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

Dear Prime Minister

Thank you for your message of 29 June. I warmly congratulate you on the Greek Parliament's ratification of the Treaty of Accession of Greece to the European Communities. This is an historic step,

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10 JUL 1979





BF
9/7/79
cc cdo
JS

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 July 1979

I enclose a copy of a letter addressed to the Prime Minister by the Greek Charge d'Affaires conveying a message from Mr. Karamanlis. Could I please have a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send, to reach us by 9 July.

I am sending a copy of this letter, and enclosure, to John Stevens in the Chancellor of the Duchy's Office.

M. A. PATTISON

Paul Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

KB



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 July 1979

I am writing to acknowledge your letter to the Prime Minister of today's date, conveying a message from the Prime Minister of Greece. I will place this before the Prime Minister as soon as she returns from her current overseas trip.

M. A. PATTISON

Monsieur Nicolas E. Athanassiou

Subject

Embassy of Greece
1a, Holland Park,
London, W.11

2
PPS

T34/79T

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T34/79T

2 July 1979

Madam,

I have been instructed by my Prime Minister to convey to you the following message:

"Dear Prime Minister,

"I have pleasure in informing you that the
"Greek Parliament yesterday ratified by a
"very large majority the Treaty of Accession
"of my country to the European Communities.
"On this occasion, I wish to thank you once
"more for your contribution to my country's
"accession to the Community.

"Greece feels happy that, in essence, she is
"already a member of the European family. You
"may rest assured that the ties between our
"two countries will grow stronger and our
"close relations closer in the framework of
"the European Community.

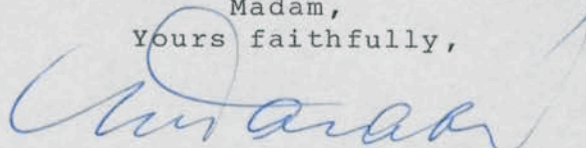
"I would deeply appreciate it if your many
"preoccupations, which I fully understand,
"could allow you to accelerate the relevant
"procedure so that the Treaty be ratified by
"the British Parliament as soon as possible.

"Yours sincerely,

"Constantine Karamanlis
"Prime Minister of Greece

"Athens, 29 June 1979"

I have the honour to be,
Madam,
Yours faithfully,



N. Athanassiou
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister
for the Civil Service,

10 Downing Street,
London S.W.1.