

SUBJECT.

US Declassified PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 217/82.

CAB/WH 001/12

FLASH

SECRET

FROM CABINET OFFICE LONDON 121928Z NOV 82

TO WHITE HOUSE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN

gc. Master set  
RS.

DEAR RON,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE ABOUT EAST/WEST RELATIONS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT BREZHNEV. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT TIME FOR US ALL, AND IT IS WAS MOST USEFUL TO HAVE YOUR OWN ASSESSMENT SO PROMPTLY.

I AGREE VERY STRONGLY WITH ALL YOUR VIEWS, IN PARTICULAR THE NEED TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE NEW SOVIET LEADERS THAT A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE EAST/WEST RELATIONSHIP IS AVAILABLE IF THEY ARE WILLING TO ADOPT A NEW APPROACH. I SHALL, AS YOU SUGGEST, MAKE THE POINT IN A SPEECH IN THE CITY OF LONDON ON 15 NOVEMBER.

I AGREE ALSO ABOUT THE OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF WESTERN UNITY AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME. IF THE NEW LEADERSHIP IN MOSCOW WERE GIVEN ANY REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT THEY COULD ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVES BY DIVIDING THE WEST, WE SHOULD HAVE LOST WHAT COULD BE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WAS VERY GLAD INDEED TO HEAR OF THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN WASHINGTON IN THE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT ECONOMIC POLICY TOWARDS THE EAST. THIS WILL OPEN THE WAY TO THE KIND OF CLEAR AND POSITIVE SIGNAL WHICH, LIKE YOU, I SHOULD LIKE TO SEE COME OUT OF THE NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING NEXT MONTH.

I SHALL NOT GO TO MOSCOW MYSELF FOR THE FUNERAL ON MONDAY. FRANCIS PYM WILL REPRESENT HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT. HE WILL, I KNOW, BE HOPING FOR THE CHANCE OF A WORD WITH GEORGE SHULTZ.

I VERY MUCH AGREE THAT WE MUST ALL KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH IN THE COMING DAYS AND WEEKS. IT WOULD OF COURSE BE MARVELLOUS IF GEORGE BUSH AND HIS TEAM COULD CALL IN AT LONDON ON THEIR WAY BACK. I SHOULD LIKE THE CHANCE TO TALK TOGETHER.

YOURS EVER,

MARGARET.

SECRET

T2A/82

To be despatched on hot 5

line at once please.

Copy at once to

Mr. Fall (F.C.O.).

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN

Dear Ron,

US Declassified

A.J.C. 13/4

Thank you for your message about East/West relations following the death of President Brezhnev. This is an important time for us all, and it was most useful to have your own assessment so promptly.

I agree very strongly with all your views, in particular the need to make it clear to the new Soviet leaders that a more constructive East/West relationship is available if they are willing to adopt a new approach. I shall, as you suggest, make the point in a speech in the City of London on 15 November.

I agree also about the overriding importance of Western unity at this particular time. If the new leadership in Moscow were given any reason to suppose that they could achieve their objectives by dividing the West, we should have lost what could be a unique opportunity. In this connection, I was very glad indeed to hear of the progress that has been made in Washington in the discussions about economic policy towards the East. This will open the way to the kind of clear and positive signal which, like you, I should like to see come out of the NATO Foreign Ministers' meeting next month.

I shall not go to Moscow myself for the funeral on Monday. Francis Pym will represent Her Majesty's Government. He will, I know, be hoping for the chance of a word with George Shultz.

I very much agree that we must all keep in close touch in the coming days and weeks. It would of course be marvellous if George Bush and his team could call in at London on their way back. I should like the chance to talk together.

Yours ever,  
Margaret.

A.J.C.

SECRET

COVERING SECRET



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 November, 1982

*Jew*

*12/11  
h.a.*

Relations with the Soviet Union

Thank you for your letter of 12 November with which you enclosed a copy of a message sent to the Prime Minister by President Reagan. I understand from the American Embassy that President Reagan has sent identical messages to other Western Heads of Government.

/ I enclose a draft reply.

*You are  
R B Bone*

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street

COVERING SECRET

DSR (Revised)

SECRET

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: President Reagan

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Thank you for your message about East/West relations following the death of President Brezhnev. This ~~could be~~ an important <sup>time</sup> ~~moment~~ for us all, and it was most useful to have your own assessment so promptly.

I agree very strongly with ~~all~~ your <sup>views</sup> ~~points~~, in particular the need to make it clear to the new Soviet leaders that a more constructive East/West relationship is available if they are ready to ~~do what is necessary~~ <sup>adopt a new</sup> ~~to remove the obstacles to this.~~ <sup>I shall as you suggest</sup> This is one of the ~~main~~ <sup>main</sup> ~~themes~~ <sup>points</sup> of a speech which I shall be making in the City of London on 15 November.

I agree also about the <sup>overriding</sup> ~~special~~ importance of Western unity at this particular time. If the new leadership in Moscow were given any reason to suppose that they ~~could~~ <sup>could</sup> achieve their objectives ~~simply~~ <sup>by dividing the West</sup> ~~exploiting Western divisions~~, we should have lost what could be a unique and ~~golden~~ opportunity. In this connection, I was very glad indeed to hear of the progress that has been made in Washington in the discussions about economic policy towards the East. This will open the

way to the kind of clear and positive signal which, like you, I should like to see come out of the NATO Foreign Ministers' meeting next month.

I <sup>shall</sup> ~~have decided~~ not to go to Moscow myself for the funeral on Monday, <sup>but to ask</sup> Francis Pym <sup>to</sup> represent the <sup>I.M.</sup> government. He will, I know, be hoping for the chance of a word with George Shultz ~~if the proceedings~~ ~~make this possible.~~