

SUBJECT

T 1001/82

SERIAL NO. PERSONAL MESSAGE  
MINISTER'S

cc Master  
ops

CONFIDENTIAL

22 - 1

GRS 181  
CONFIDENTIAL  
FM FCO 061813Z FEB 83  
TO IMMEDIATE LUANDA  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 72 OF 6 FEBRUARY

YOUR TELNO 72: PRISONERS

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER  
TO THE PRESIDENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BEGINS:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

I KNOW THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT IS IN THE MIDST OF DIFFICULT  
AND SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS AFFECTING THE SECURITY AND PROSPERITY  
OF ANGOLA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS. AS I SAID IN MY MESSAGE TO YOU  
LAST JULY, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO  
BRING ABOUT AN END OF TENSION AND BLOODSHED IN THE REGION.

I WELCOME THE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO LONDON OF SR PAULO  
JORGE, YOUR FOREIGN MINISTER. THIS WILL ENABLE FURTHER FRANK  
DISCUSSION OF THESE IMPORTANT ISSUES.

I HOPE THE VISIT WILL ALSO LEAD TO FURTHER PROGRESS IN  
OUR ALREADY FRIENDLY BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN THAT CONTEXT, YOU  
WILL BE AWARE OF THE CONCERN IN THIS COUNTRY AT THE CONTINUED  
DETENTION OF THE SEVEN BRITISH MERCENARIES.

I KNOW THAT HER MAJESTY'S AMBASSADOR HAS SOUGHT AN AUDIENCE  
OF YOU: I HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY THE  
REPRESENTATIONS HE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE.

MARGARET THATCHER.

ENDS

PYM  
LIMITED  
CAFD  
PS  
PS/MRONSLW  
SIR J LEAHY  
MR SQUIRE

1  
CONFIDENTIAL

E9 FEB 1961

10 11 12 1  
9 8 7 6 5 4  
3 2

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

Resident Clerk,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Respatched to fco  
17.45 hrs 6/2

We spoke earlier.

I should be grateful if you would despatch the attached message, approved by the Prime Minister, to Luanda as soon as possible.

Thank you.

*Mal Kerr*

Duty Clerk

6 February, 1983.

File No. ....

Department .....

Drafted by  
(Block Capitals) .....

Tel. Extn. ....

OUTWARD

TELEGRAM

Security Classification  
CONFIDENTIAL

Precedence  
IMMEDIATE

DESKBY ..... Z

FOR  
COMMS. DEPT.  
USE

Despatched

(Date) .....

(Time) ..... Z

POSTBY ..... Z

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) ..... Z(G.M.T.)

(Security Class.) .....

(Codeword) .....

(Restrictive Prefix) .....

(Caveat/  
Privacy Marking) .....

(Deskby) ..... Z

TO IMMEDIATE LUANDA  
(precedence) (post) Tel. No. .... of .....

AND TO (precedence/post) .....

AND SAVING TO .....

REPEATED TO (for info) .....

SAVING TO (for info) .....

Distribution:-

[TEXT]

Your Tel No 72: PRISONERS

Please pass the following message from the Prime  
Minister to the President as soon as possible.

Begins:

Dear Mr. President,

I know that your Government is in the midst of  
difficult and serious negotiations affecting the  
security and prosperity of Angola and its neighbours.  
As I said in my message to you last July, the British  
Government will do all it can to bring about an end of  
tension and bloodshed in the region.

I welcome the forthcoming visit to London of  
Sir Paulo Jorge, your Foreign Minister. This will /

plea to:-

enable further frank discussion of these important issues.

I hope the visit will also lead to further progress in our already friendly bilateral relations. In that context, you will be aware of the concern in this country at the continued detention of the seven British mercenaries.

I know that Her Majesty's Ambassador has sought an audience of you; I hope that you will consider sympathetically the representations he has been instructed to make.

Margaret Thatcher.

Ends.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN



Prime Minister

If you agree to send this Foreign and Commonwealth Office message, would the duty clerk be told over the weekend please?

London SW1A 2AH

4 February 1983

(I do not think you need commit yourself to seeing the Angolan Foreign Minister).

Dear John,

A.J.C. 1/2

Agree  
- please let  
duty clerk  
know  
not

Our Ambassador in Luanda has been waiting for some weeks for an audience with the President of Angola to press for the release of seven British ex-mercenaries who have been imprisoned in Luanda since 1976. There has, as you know, been growing Parliamentary concern at their continued detention ever since the release at the end of last year (in a general exchange of prisoners) of Americans sentenced at the same time and on the same charges as them.

Our Ambassador has reported that his chances of seeing the President in the next few days will be greatly strengthened if he could convey a message from the Prime Minister. Mr Pym would see considerable value in this. In Parliamentary terms, it would be helpful to have the meeting out of the way by 9 February, when Mr Harvey Proctor MP, who has an imprisoned mercenary among his constituents, has a question on Angola down for oral answer. It would also help to set the scene for the visit of the Angolan Foreign Minister, Paulo Jorge, who will be in London from 10-13 February. We will certainly be taking up the question of the mercenaries with Sr Jorge, but would not want this to overshadow the visit, given the need to keep open our lines to the Angolans on the (ultimately much more important) question of Namibia, and in view of the useful trade prospects that could follow from a general settlement in the region.

I would be grateful if the Prime Minister's agreement to send a message along the lines of the attached draft could be sought as soon as possible. The Resident Clerk will be ready to despatch this over the weekend if the Prime Minister is content.

If the message issues, there is a chance that a reply from President dos Santos will be sent back via Sr Jorge. If this proves to be so, it would be helpful to know whether the Prime Minister would be willing to receive him briefly, preferably on Friday 11 February, to take delivery of it.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq,  
10 Downing Street.

OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	Precedence/Deskby <b>IMMEDIATE</b>
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ZCZC  
GRS  
CLASS  
CAVEATS  
DESKBY  
FM FCO  
PRE/ADD  
TEL NO

1 ZCZC  
2 GRS  
3 CONFIDENTIAL  
4  
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6 FM FCO 041950Z FEBRUARY 83  
7 TO IMMEDIATE LUANDA  
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER

9  
10 YOUR TELNO 72: PRISONERS

11 1. Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister  
12 to the President as soon as possible.

13 Begins:

14 Dear M. <sup>e</sup>President,

15 I know that your Government is in the midst of difficult  
16 and serious negotiations affecting the security and prosperity  
17 of Angola and its neighbours. As I said in my message to you  
18 last July, the British Government will do all it can to bring  
19 about an end of tension and bloodshed in the region.

///  
//  
/

21 I welcome the forthcoming visit to London of  
22 Sir Paulo Jorge, your Foreign Minister. This will enable  
23 further frank discussion of these <sup>important</sup> ~~international~~ issues.

25 I hope the visit will also lead to further progress in our

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword already
File number	Dept P. OFFICE	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals) J E HOLMES		
Telephone number 233-464L		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL	Page 2
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1 <<<<  
 2 already ~~warm and~~ friendly bilateral relations. In that  
 3 context, you will be aware of the concern in this country at the  
 4 continued detention of the seven British mercenaries.  
 5 I know that Her Majesty's Ambassador has sought an audience of  
 6 you; I hope that you will consider sympathetically the  
 7 representations he has been instructed to make.

Margaret Thatcher  
 Ends.

10 ~~2. For your own information only, if the President sends a~~  
 11 ~~personal reply back with Jorge, the Prime Minister is in~~  
 12 ~~principle ready to see him for a few minutes to receive the~~  
 13 ~~message.~~

15 PYM  
 16 NNNN

*Meredith*

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34

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
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