



FenB(w)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB  
Telephone 01-~~938 7022~~ 218 2111/3

MO 27/5/1/1

29th September 1983

Dear Tim

MOUNTBATTEN STATUE

As you will be aware arrangements for the unveiling ceremony for the Mountbatten statue include speeches by The Queen, the Prime Minister and Lady Mountbatten.

/ I attach a copy of a draft speech for the Prime Minister  
/ which has been prepared in the Department and agreed by the  
Secretary of State. For information I also attach copies of the  
draft speeches for The Queen and Lady Mountbatten which are being  
forwarded separately to the Palace. Naturally it will be important  
that all three speeches complement one another and they have been  
drafted with this in mind. No doubt you will liaise with the Palace  
so that any changes made to one are taken into account as appropriate  
in the others.

Yours

Simon Lowe

(S H LOWE)  
Private Secretary

T Flesher Esq

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
HEADQUARTERS  
CANTONMENT ROAD  
SINGAPORE



30 SEP 1983



DRAFT SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER

Today is gathered together a very distinguished, wide-ranging international audience to pay tribute to a man who made a major and distinctive contribution to our history in this century.

This unveiling ceremony is the culmination of an initiative which was begun some two years ago. The Government was delighted with the ground-swell of public opinion which arose in favour of a permanent monument to Lord Mountbatten and I was very proud to be the Chairman of the most distinguished group of sponsors who launched the appeal and which has had such a widespread and generous response.

Lord Mountbatten was a man of great vitality which enabled him to achieve distinction in many aspects of life. Many here have had personal experience of his professional skill, technical mastery, inventive mind, love of life, and strong sense of family ties.

I should like to say a few words today about Lord Mountbatten's service to the nation which started in 1913 ~~1914~~ and which continued in an increasing variety of roles, responsibilities and challenges for sixty years - a tremendous span of service. He chose as a profession the Royal Navy where the unexpected and the unknown have made and continue to make great demands

on the skills and character of its officers and men. How he responded to these demands and rose, almost inevitably, to be the leader of his Service is symbolised in the inspiring story of HMS Kelly. It was the quality of the man as much as his professional skill which led Sir Winston Churchill to call on him first to take over as Chief of Combined Operations and then to become Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia. These two very different appointments had certain common threads: they called for dynamic creativity; they needed a team-spirit and a sense of identity to be developed and inspired by personal leadership. That this was outstandingly well done is now a matter of history.

The post-war years placed equally demanding and varied burdens on him. There was first the immense problem of the Indian sub-continent. As a practising politician I know that some problems are impossible of immediate solution. I am sure that my distinguished predecessor Lord Attlee faced such a predicament and as he said in his memoirs: "I did not think that the chances of success were very good but I thought that there was one man who might pull it off. Admiral Mountbatten, a brilliant sailor, had imagination, sympathy and tremendous drive. I knew, also, that he had, in Lady Mountbatten, a wife who would admirably assist him." Looked at in the perspective, still short,

of history I believe that he achieved much more than could reasonably have been expected. Moreover such was his personality that even when decisions of the utmost difficulty needed to be taken he retained the respect and affection of all those most directly involved.

Organisation and management are often underrated as fields for achievement but here too Lord Mountbatten played a major role in the radical changes which led to the unification and restructuring of the Ministry of Defence. The changes were wholly consistent with his strong belief in the working together of the three Services.

Lord Mountbatten's service to the country continued long after the end of his active service as Chief of the Defence Staff until it was sadly and deplorably curtailed by the circumstances of his death. It is right that there should be a lasting and visible memorial to a lifetime dedicated to the service of this country and to the cementing of relations with our allies and Commonwealth friends. It is I am sure with feelings of pride, respect and humility that we all are present today.



The National Archives

LETTERCODE/SERIES ..... <i>PREM 19</i> .....	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM ..... <i>1118</i> ..... (one piece/item number)	
Extract/Item details:  <i>Draft speech by HM Queen Enclosed with letter from Lowe to Fletcher dated 29 September 1983</i>	
CLOSED FOR ..... <i>40</i> ..... YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	<i>19 July 2013 A Dayland</i>
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	
MISSING ON TRANSFER	
MISSING	
NUMBER NOT USED	

DRAFT SPEECH BY LADY MOUNTBATTEN

My sister and I and all the members of the family are deeply touched and indeed overawed by this occasion. We are greatly honoured that your Majesty has graciously agreed to unveil this statue of my father and has spoken so kindly and personally about his achievements. We are most appreciative also of the terms of the address by the Prime Minister and by the initiative taken by her and the other sponsors to launch the Appeal and of the dedicated efforts of the Trustees and Assessors who saw it through to such an impressive conclusion.

May I pay special tribute to Mr. Franta Belsky who has, I believe, both in the pose and in the details caught admirably not just the likeness but the inner spirit of my father.

It gives me both great pride and a sense of deep humility to see the wide span of those present today: relatives, friends, colleagues and representatives of many organisations and from so many countries, with whom my father was associated. It was above all people who inspired him and we are deeply touched that so many facets of his life are represented here today. May I express my deep thanks to your Majesty, to the Prime Minister, to all of you who are present and to the very large number who have subscribed and who regrettably cannot attend for making possible such a moving and impressive memorial.

Royal Family Mountbatten memorial A 2