

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO. 1145/80

CONFIDENTIAL



T145/80 (2)

Prime Minister

Ans

TEXT OF MESSAGE DATED 18 JULY, 1980 FROM
PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA TO
THE RT. HON. MARGARET THATCHER, M.P.
PRIME MINISTER

ms - 4 Ans

My dear Prime Minister,

In view of the importance of the issues raised, I am sending you this brief personal message setting out some of the first-hand impressions I gained at this week's meeting of the South Pacific Forum in Tarawa.

This annual meeting of Heads of Government in the Pacific has assumed a new importance in the past few years. The Island countries of the South Pacific are speaking more and more with one voice on a range of world issues in such fora as the United Nations, and in particular in the Forum, their principal regional meeting.

Discussions at the Forum meetings naturally focus most closely on issues of regional importance. Of the issues discussed this year, two were of particular significance in a broader international context. One of them, the emergence of the New Hebrides as a new and independent country, is of particular interest to Britain as a joint administering power. Another, the storage of nuclear waste outside home countries, is an issue to which we shall all have to give greater attention.

The West now enjoys a generally friendly and constructive relationship with the South Pacific countries. We must recognise the value of this relationship and ensure that it is not lost simply because of failure to recognise its importance in the international scheme of things. We should seek to build on the present foundation of good relations.

What struck me most forcibly in Tarawa was how strongly the Island leaders feel about their progress towards attaining self-government and independence. These feelings will have to be given proper weight if we are to succeed in avoiding serious unrest in the South Pacific in the years immediately ahead.

Uppermost in everyone's minds at Tarawa was the question of the New Hebrides. There was complete support for Father Walter Lini, whom I met for the first time. He made a very favourable impression on me at the Conference with his articulate and moderate presentation of his views. He drew a strong and even emotional response from the other leaders in terms of commitment to the New Hebrides achieving independence as a united country on 30 July. I sensed an equally strong commitment to the continuing processes of self-government and independence elsewhere in the Pacific, even though no resolutions were put forward on other Island territories.

.... / 2

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On nuclear matters only one actual resolution emerged - on an American proposal to store nuclear waste on the island of Palmyra - but more generally there was a strongly expressed feeling that the time had come when the Pacific should no longer be made use of in the nuclear context. This feeling could likewise have important political consequences for us all in the wider international sphere, if other powers - in particular the Soviet Union and its associates - sought to exploit it.

Even though Australia borders the Pacific we have perhaps been slower than we should to recognise its importance and significance. In recent years we have sought to make up lost ground in various ways including greatly increased aid and by increased involvement in the area at Ministerial and Prime Ministerial level. In terms of our geographical location, and of our direct interest, this makes obvious sense. But what may not be so obvious, and that prompts me to write to you now, is that in addition to your own direct interests in the Pacific region we and you share a broader interest in stability in this area as a whole. This interest will only be served effectively if our Governments at the highest levels are responsive to the views and aspirations of the South Pacific island countries.

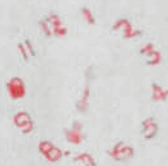
Yours sincerely,

(Malcolm Fraser)

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CONDINGIOL

18 JUL 1980





T 145/80

PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

27 JUL 1980

Mr. Lee Fitzgerald

In view of the importance of the issues raised, I am sending you this brief personal message setting out some of the first-hand impressions I gained at this week's meeting of the South Pacific Forum in Tarawa.

This annual meeting of heads of government in the Pacific has assumed a new importance in the past few years. The island countries of the South Pacific are speaking more and more with one voice on a range of world issues in such fora as the United Nations, and in particular in the Forum, their principal regional meeting.

Discussions at the Forum meetings naturally focus most closely on issues of regional importance. Of the issues discussed this year, two were of particular significance in a broader international context. One of them, the emergence of the New Hebrides as a new and independent country, is of particular interest to Britain as a joint administering power. Another, the storage of nuclear waste outside home countries, is an issue to which we shall all have to give greater attention.

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My best wishes
Margaret Thatcher

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister of Great Britain,
LONDON.

ACTION

MR SHROFF

MR D. LAWSON

UNCLASS 17 JULY 80

15313

FROM WELLINGTON

TO SUVA 2041 CANBERRA 2303 NUKUALOFA 1195 APIA 1534
RAROTONGA 778 NEW YORK PR 628 NIUE 329 HONIARA 422
PORT MORESBY 910 LONDON 5535 PARIS 1500 NOUMEA 138
WASHINGTON 2768 -ALL PRIORITY-

FORUM: COMMUNIQUE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE ADOPTED ON 14 JULY BY SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM:

"THE ELEVENTH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM WAS HELD IN TARAWA, REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI. ON 14-15 JULY. THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FROM AUSTRALIA. COOK ISLANDS. FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (AS AN OBSERVER). FIJI. KIRIBATI. NAURU. NEW HEBRIDES. NEW ZEALAND. NIUE. PAPUA NEW GUINEA. SOLOMON ISLANDS. TONGA AND TUVALU. WHILE WESTERN SAMOA WAS REPRESENTED BY A SENIOR MINISTER. THE BERETITENTI OF KIRIBATI. THE HON. IEREMIA TABIA. CHAIRED THE MEETING. WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE MANEABA NI MAUNGATABU (HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY).

THE MAIN ISSUES DISCUSSED WERE AS FOLLOWS:

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS

(A) FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

THE FORUM WELCOMED THE ADMISSION TO THE FORUM. IN AN OBSERVER CAPACITY. THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA. NOTING THAT FOLLOWING A DECISION OF THE TENTH FORUM IN HONIARA LAST YEAR. THE FSM HAD ALREADY BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION. THE QUESTION OF FULL MEMBERSHIP FOR THE FSM WAS RESERVED FOR REVIEW AT A LATER STAGE

(B) NEW HEBRIDES

(TEXT TO THIS SECTION IN OUR 2279 TO CANBERRA)

(FCO HAS TEXT)

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RECALLING THE RESOLUTION OF THE TENTH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM REGARDING THE STORAGE IN THE PACIFIC OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL:

NOTING THAT THE U.S.A. HAS INVITED OTHER COUNTRIES TO JOIN IN EXAMINING A NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE PROJECT ON PALMYRA:

BELIEVING THAT ANY PROPOSAL FOR THE STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTE OUTSIDE HOME COUNTRIES IS A MATTER OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE AND SHOULD BE EXAMINED CLOSELY BY ALL COUNTRIES CONCERNED:

NOTES THE ASSURANCE BY THE UNITED STATES THAT THIS PROJECT WOULD NOT BE AN ECOLOGICAL THREAT TO THE PACIFIC WATERS BUT URGES THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL BE DEFERRED PENDING FURTHER DETAILED TECHNICAL EXAMINATION AND REPORT:

CONDEMNS ANY ACTION WHICH REPRESENTS FURTHER EXPLOITATION OF THE PACIFIC FOR NUCLEAR PURPOSES IN WAYS WHICH DISADVANTAGE THE PEOPLE OF THE PACIFIC:

REQUESTS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ELEVENTH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM TO CONVEY THIS RESOLUTION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

SHIPPING

THE FORUM CONSIDERED IN DETAIL THE SITUATION OF THE PACIFIC FORUM LINE, NOTING THAT FINANCIAL, MANAGERIAL AND OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE LINE WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN DETAIL AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE REGIONAL SHIPPING COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN AUGUST IN CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION ON THE SITING OF THE LINE'S FINANCIAL OPERATIONS. THE FORUM REVIEWED THE OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PFL AND NOTED THAT THESE WOULD BE UNDER CONSIDERATION AT THE FORTHCOMING COUNCIL MEETING.

REGIONAL FISHERIES

THE FORUM RECOGNISED THE NEED FOR FORUM MEMBERS TO CLEARLY ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RESEARCH AND IT. THEREFORE, DIRECTED THE FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY TO CONVENE AT AN EARLY STAGE A MEETING OF OFFICIALS AND APPROPRIATE TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO DISCUSS, IDENTIFY AND PLAN A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE REGION SUITED TO THE NEEDS OF ITS MEMBERS.

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REGIONAL NEWS EXCHANGE SCHEME

THE FORUM ENDORSED IN PRINCIPLE A PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL NEWS EXCHANGE SCHEME AND AGREED THAT IT SHOULD BE INCLUDED ALONG WITH A PROPOSAL BY THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC FOR POSSIBLE EEC FUNDING.

VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FORUM WILL BE HELD IN THE NEW HEBRIDES (VANUATU).''

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THE FORUM CONSIDERED THE TEXT OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL TRADE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT (SPARTECA) TOGETHER WITH ITS PROVISIONS, WHICH PROVIDES PROGRESSIVELY FOR UNRESTRICTED AND NON-RECIPROCAL ACCESS TO THE MARKETS OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND FOR A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS FROM FORUM ISLAND COUNTRIES. THE SPARTECA AGREEMENT WAS OPENED FOR SIGNATURE AND WAS SIGNED, SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION, BY THE FORUM DELEGATIONS' HEADS FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES: AUSTRALIA, COOK ISLANDS, KIRIBATI, NEW ZEALAND, NIUE, SOLOMON ISLANDS, TONGA, TUVALU AND WESTERN SAMOA. THE PRIME MINISTER OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA AFFIRMED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE AGREEMENT, BUT, FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REASONS, WAS UNABLE TO SIGN AS YET. FIJI DECIDED NOT TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT AT THIS STAGE UNTIL ITS CONCERNS ON CERTAIN ITEMS IN THE SCHEDULES AND IN PARTICULAR CITRUS JUICE AND TIMBER EXPORTS WERE ACCOMMODATED. THE PRESIDENT OF NAURU INDICATED THAT NAURU WOULD SIGN THE AGREEMENT ONLY IF NAURU WAS INCLUDED IN THE DEFINITION OF SMALLER ISLAND COUNTRIES IN ARTICLE I OF THE AGREEMENT.

REVIEW OF REGIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS:
REPORT OF JOINT SPEC/SPC COMMITTEE

THE FORUM RECEIVED AND CONSIDERED THE REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE FORUM AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE TO EXAMINE THE SPEC AND GAMBERRA AGREEMENTS AND TO EXAMINE WAYS IN WHICH TO ENSURE THE MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF TOTAL HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE REGION. THE FORUM NOTED THE CENTRAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE REPORT TO THE EFFECT THAT A SINGLE COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL INSTITUTION SHOULD BE CREATED IN THE PACIFIC BY A MERGER AND REORGANISATION OF SPC AND SPEC, AND CONCLUDED THAT THERE WERE ASPECTS OF THIS RECOMMENDATION WHICH REQUIRED FURTHER STUDY. THE FORUM WAS OF THE OPINION THAT IN THE COURSE OF TIME THE QUESTION SHOULD RESOLVE ITSELF AS MORE PACIFIC COUNTRIES JOINED THE FORUM.

PACIFIC ISLAND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND:

THE FORUM TOOK NOTE OF A PAPER PRESENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF FIJI CONCERNING A PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AND AGREED THAT THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER STUDY, IN CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE SPEC SECRETARIAT AND THE CONFERENCE ON PACIFIC ISLAND DEVELOPMENT, BASED AT THE EAST-WEST CENTRE.

COMMONWEALTH MATTERS:

THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER DREW ATTENTION TO THE FORTHCOMING CHOGRM MEETING IN NEW DELHI. HE FELT THAT IN ORDER TO DRAW MORE INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HOST THE NEXT MEETING OF CHOGRM IN 1982 SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC.

ENERGY MATTERS:

(A) FORUM APPROACH TO OPEC

THE FORUM CONSIDERED THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE SPEC SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR A TOP-LEVEL DELEGATION OF SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEMBERS TO APPROACH THE OPEC STATES WITH A VIEW TO SEEKING SYMPATHETIC TREATMENT AND FOR CONCESSIONS FOR THE FORUM MEMBERS IN THE FIELD OF THE SUPPLY AND PRICING OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN EARLIER DIRECTIVE FROM THE REGIONAL CIVIL AVIATION COUNCIL. THE FORUM NOTED THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE METHOD OF OBJECTIVES OF SUCH AN APPROACH, AND NOTING THE DESIRABILITY OF BRINGING TO THE ATTENTION OF OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES THE DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY FORUM ISLAND COUNTRIES THROUGH FUEL IMPORT COST INCREASES, AGREED THAT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN APPROACH TO OPEC STATES SHOULD BE PREPARED BY SPEC IN CONSULTATION WITH FORUM MEMBERS, BEFORE A DECISION WAS TAKEN WHETHER OR NOT TO PROCEED WITH AN APPROACH.

(B) NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PREMIER OF THE COOK ISLANDS, THE FORUM CONSIDERED THE PROBLEM OF THE DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR WASTE IN THE PACIFIC AND ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL
THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PREMIER OF THE COOK ISLANDS. THE
FORUM CONSIDERED THE PROBLEM OF THE DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR WASTE
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RELIEVING THAT ANY PROPOSAL FOR THE STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTE
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AND PLAN A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE REGION
SUITED TO THE NEEDS OF ITS MEMBERS.

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EXCHANGE SCHEME AND AGREED THAT IT SHOULD BE INCLUDED ALONG
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POSSIBLE EEC FUNDING.

VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FORUM WILL BE HELD IN THE NEW
HEBRIDES (VANUATU).''

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file

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For Paul

31 July 1980

Thank you for your letter of 29 July
and for the enclosed original of Mr. Fraser's
letter of 18 July to the Prime Minister.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

His Excellency Sir James Plimsoll, A.C., C.B.E.

GC



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION · LONDON

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

29 July 1980

Dear Mr Alexander,

*Confirmation
copy*

I refer to my letter of 18 July 1980, enclosing the text of a letter dated 18 July from the Australian Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Malcolm Fraser, to your Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher.

I now enclose the original of Mr Fraser's letter.

Yours sincerely
J. Plimsoll

(J. Plimsoll)

Mr Michael Alexander,
Private Secretary (Overseas Affairs)
to the Prime Minister,
Prime Minister's Office,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON, SW1.



Foreign Office
Lb Lb
B/F 25/7/80

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 July 1980

I enclose a copy of a message to the Prime Minister from the Prime Minister of Australia about this week's meeting of the South Pacific Forum in Tarawa.

I should be grateful if you could let me have in due course the text of a reply which the Prime Minister might send to Mr. Fraser.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R. M. J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

TR



File 16

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 July 1980

I am replying on the Prime Minister's behalf to your letter to her of 18 July enclosing a message from the Prime Minister of Australia. I have, of course, brought Mr. Fraser's message to the Prime Minister's immediate attention.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

His Excellency Sir James Plimsoll, A.C.

CONFIDENTIAL



THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION · LONDON

18 July, 1980.

Dear Prime Minister,

I have been asked by the Prime Minister of Australia to pass to you the attached message from him.

It arrived by telegram and the original will be sent to you as soon as it is received.

Yours sincerely,
J. Plimsoll

(J. Plimsoll)

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

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