

CONFIDENTIAL

*New Hebrides*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 June 1980

*Dear Michael,*

New Hebrides

Following the Prime Minister's discussions with President Giscard d'Estaing in Venice last week, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary thinks it would be useful to send a rapid message to the French President both to draw attention to Lord Carrington's statement in Parliament today and to reiterate our wish to work together with the French to achieve settlement. I attach draft telegrams to Paris accordingly.

The Embassy in Paris have been in touch with the DOMTOM at our request to try to arrange an early meeting between Mr Blaker and M Dijoud. Mr Blaker was prepared to go to Paris tomorrow, but we have received no confirmation from Paris that such a meeting has yet been arranged. The message therefore only reiterates our determination that our two Governments should remain in the closest touch on this problem and that Mr Blaker is prepared to meet M Dijoud at the earliest possible opportunity to discuss ways of pursuing a peaceful negotiated solution.

The message also reflects the Chief Minister's readiness to re-open talks with Mr Stephens and the latter's encouraging response (Vila Tels 417 and 419). This could provide an opportunity to break the current deadlock and is a development which we must instruct our Resident Commissioners to encourage.

*yours ever*

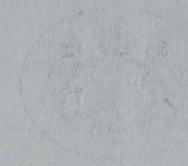
*Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

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10 Downing Street

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Patent and Copyright Office  
London W2 1AL



16 JUN 1980



# OUT TELEGRAM

	Classification and Caveats <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	Precedence/Deskby <b>IMMEDIATE</b>															
ZC S ASS VEATS SKBY FCO E/ADD L NO	<div style="text-align: center;">↓</div> <p>1 ZCZC</p> <p>2 GRS</p> <p>3 CONFIDENTIAL</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6 FM FCO 161930Z</p> <p>7 TO IMMEDIATE PARIS</p> <p>8 TELEGRAM NUMBER</p> <p>9 REPEATED FOR INFORMATION TO IMMEDIATE VILA, PRIORITY CANBERRA,</p> <p>10 WELLINGTON, SUVA, HONIARA, PORT MORESBY, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW</p> <p>11 YORK</p> <p>12 NEW HEBRIDES</p> <p>13 1. Following is text of a message from the Prime Minister to</p> <p>14 President Giscard. Please arrange for it to be delivered as</p> <p>15 soon as possible. Following their discussion in Venice,</p> <p>16 the message is designed to lower the temperature, while</p> <p>17 maintaining the pressure on M Dijoud to agree to an early</p> <p>18 meeting with Mr Blaker.</p> <p>19 2. Mr Blaker is content for you to judge how best to inform</p> <p>20 M Dijoud of the message.</p> <p>21 BEGINS</p> <p>22 My dear President</p> <p>23 I am glad that we had a chance to discuss the New Hebrides in</p> <p>24 Venice, and <sup>^</sup>found our talk most useful. In the light of it</p> <p>25</p>																
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">NNNN ends telegram</td> <td style="width: 45%; text-align: center;">BLANK</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Catchword 7 I was surprised</td> </tr> <tr> <td>File number</td> <td>Dept SPD</td> <td rowspan="4" style="vertical-align: top;">Distribution  Files SPD(6)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Drafted by (Block capitals) C M CARRUTHERS</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Telephone number 233-7874</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Authorised for despatch</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Comcen reference</td> <td>Time of despatch</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword 7 I was surprised	File number	Dept SPD	Distribution  Files SPD(6)	Drafted by (Block capitals) C M CARRUTHERS		Telephone number 233-7874		Authorised for despatch		Comcen reference	Time of despatch		
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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification and Caveats <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	Page 2
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1 <<<<  
 2 I was surprised to hear of the protest made by your Resident  
 3 Commissioner in the New Hebrides about the present<sup>ce</sup> of British  
 4 troops in Vila. This does not reflect our clear understanding  
 5 of the recommendation of our respective Resident Commissioners  
 6 following their meeting with the New Hebrides Council of  
 7 Ministers on 11 June. We therefore thought it necessary to  
 8 clarify our own position publicly. I attach a copy of a  
 9 statement made by Lord Carrington in the House of Lords today.  
 10  
 11 At the same time, I would emphasise that I do not wish to see  
 12 this problem become a source of <sup>diplomacy</sup> tension between us. As we  
 13 agreed in Venice, our two governments must work closely together  
 14 in pursuit of a peaceful negotiated settlement. I have been  
 15 encouraged by reports of a further attempt by Fr Lini to re-open  
 16 negotiations with Mr Stephens and his associates. Mr Stephens  
 17 has apparently responded positively. I believe that Mr Blaker  
 18 and M Dijoud should now meet as soon as possible, and endeavour  
 19 to build upon this new initiative. I sincerely hope that in  
 20 this way we can renew our joint commitment to work for a  
 21 peaceful transition to independence for the New Hebrides.  
 22  
 23 With my very best wishes,  
 24 Yours sincerely  
 25 Margaret Thatcher  
 26 ENDS  
 27 3. The text of the Secretary of State's statement in the House  
 28 today is in MIFT.  
 29 CARRINGTON  
 30 NNNN  
 31  
 32  
 33  
 34

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NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
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# OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats

UNCLASSIFIED

Precedence/Deskby

IMMEDIATE

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AVEATS  
ESKBY  
M FCO  
PRE/ADD  
TEL NO

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ZCZC  
GRS  
UNCLASSIFIED  
*DESKBY NEXT CONTACT*

FROM FCO  
IMMEDIATE PARIS  
INFO IMMEDIATE VILA

9 INFO PRIORITY CANBERRA, WELLINGTON, SUVA, HONIARA, PORT MORESBY,  
10 WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK  
11 TELEGRAM NUMBER  
12 NEW HEBRIDES  
13 MIPT

14           On 11 June, following the shooting of a prominent  
15 opposition Deputy during a demonstration in the island of Tanna,  
16 the New Hebrides Government asked the two Resident Commissioners  
17 to recommend to their governments the despatch of British and  
18 French forces to the New Hebrides. This request was made during  
19 the course of a Cabinet meeting, and both Resident  
20 Commissioners agreed to make such a recommendation to their  
21 respective governments. The Chief Minister's understanding of  
22 their agreement was later confirmed in writing. It was in  
23 response to this joint recommendation that the French decided to  
24 send some gendarmes from New Caledonia. They informed us of this  
25 decision. It was also in response to the joint recommendation

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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats

UNCLASSIFIED

IMMEDIATE

Page

2

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~~that the French decided to send some gendarmes from New~~

3

~~Caledonia. They informed us of this decision. It was also~~

4

~~in response to the joint recommendation and to match the~~

5

French action that we decided to send a contingent of the

6

Royal Marines, in order that we might be in a position to act

7

jointly, should the need arise, with the French gendarmes. We

8

informed the French of this decision.

9

On 12 June the French Government decided to withdraw

10

their gendarmes from the New Hebrides and did so that day.

11

On 15 June the French Resident Commissioner made a formal

12

protest to the British Resident Commissioner about the despatch

13

of the Royal Marines.

14

In deploying our troops in Vila, we are not only

15

demonstrating our willingness to live up to our obligations,

16

but we are satisfied that we are acting in accordance with

17

the 1914 Protocol which governs the joint administration in

18

the Condominium.

19

I am seeking an early meeting with M Dijoud, the

20

responsible French Minister, in order that we may clarify

21

our joint approach to the problems in the New Hebrides.

22

Meanwhile it remains the intention of HMG, to do all in our

23

power to promote a peaceful solution to the problem, to

24

support the democratically elected Government and to safeguard

25

the integrity of the New Hebrides.

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NNNN ends  
telegram

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Catchword