

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28.7.80

Message approved for dispatch,
from [unclear] [unclear].

Print, 29/7

Dear Michael,

New Hebrides Independence:
Messages from the Prime Minister

The New Hebrides is to become an independent Republic within the Commonwealth, under the name of Vanuatu, at midnight on 29/30 July. It is customary for the Prime Minister to send a message of congratulations to the Head of Government of such a newly independent state.

I attach a draft telegram the text of which Mr Blaker (leader of the British delegation) could deliver to the Hon and Rev Walter Lini, the present Chief Minister of the New Hebrides, who will become the first Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu.

It is also customary for Her Majesty The Queen and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to send messages on such occasions. Arrangements for these are in hand.

yours ever
Rodric Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

Michael Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
London

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Department
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OUTWARD
TELEGRAM

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PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

AND SAVING TO

REPEATED TO (for info) PRIORITY PARIS SERIAL No. T 152 A/80.

*LCC Master
ops*

SAVING TO (for info)

Vanuatu : Internal Sit : July 80

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- SPD
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- PS/Mr Blaker
- PS/PUS
- Mr Stratton

cc: No 10 DS

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[TEXT]

Grateful if following message from Prime Minister could be delivered to Fr Lini by Mr Blaker

Begins:

I am very happy to send you, through Mr Peter Blaker, Minister of State, at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, this message of friendship and goodwill on behalf of myself and the British Government and people.

We extend to you, to your colleagues, and to all the people of your country our warmest congratulations as Vanuatu takes her place in the international community as an independent Republic and a fellow member of the Commonwealth.

Ends