

ops

Subject NATO Sept 1980
Appointment of Sec General

Am Gillmore
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GRS 293

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FM FCO 301400Z JUN 83

TO IMMEDIATE BONN

TELEGRAM NUMBER 346 OF 30 JUNE

INFO MODUK (PS/SOFS)

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T98A183

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF NATO

FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR/MINISTER

1. PLEASE PASS URGENTLY TO CHANCELLOR KOHL THE FOLLOWING
MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER:
BEGINS.

'DEAR CHANCELLOR KOHL, I HAD HOPED TO RAISE WITH YOU PERSONALLY,
EITHER IN STUTTGART OR IN LONDON, THE QUESTION OF THE SUCCESSION TO
DR LUNS AS NATO SECRETARY-GENERAL. SINCE THAT DID NOT IN
THE EVENT PROVE POSSIBLE, I AM ASKING SIR JOCK TAYLOR TO GIVE
YOU THIS PERSONAL MESSAGE INSTEAD.

AS YOU KNOW, JOSEPH LUNS HAS INDICATED THAT HE WISHES
TO STAND DOWN NEXT YEAR AND THE QUESTION OF WHO SHOULD SUCCEED
HIM IS ALREADY UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION. YOU MAY ALREADY
HAVE HEARD INFORMALLY THAT PETER CARRINGTON HAS SAID HE WOULD
BE WILLING TO SUCCEED DR LUNS AS NATO SECRETARY-GENERAL IF
IT WERE TO BE THE GENERAL WISH OF THE ALLIANCE THAT HE SHOULD
DO SO AND ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT HIS NOMINATION WOULD
THEREFORE NOT BE CONTESTED. I SHOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT
IN MY VIEW PETER CARRINGTON IS INDEED THE BEST CANDIDATE
AND I HOPE THAT HE WILL OBTAIN THE POST. IT IS OBVIOUSLY
IMPORTANT AT THIS JUNCTURE THAT THE ALLIANCE SHOULD
CONTINUE TO HAVE FOR ITS SECRETARY-GENERAL A PERSON OF
WIDE POLITICAL EXPERIENCE OF ALLIANCE AFFAIRS AND OF A
STATURE AND REPUTATION THAT COMMANDS GENERAL RESPECT. I
BELIEVE THAT PETER CARRINGTON ADMIRABLY FITS THIS
REQUIREMENT. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO

S E C R E T D E D I P

1846 - 1

TELL ME THAT HE WOULD ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT. I SHOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD LET
ME HAVE AN INDICATION OF YOUR THINKING ON THIS FAIRLY
SOON, SO THAT WE MAY PROCEED TO THE WIDER CONSULTATIONS
WITHIN THE ALLIANCE THAT WILL BE NECESSARY.
SINCERELY, MARGARET THATCHER''
ENDS.

HOWE

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MR GILLMORE

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