

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No.**

T 990/82

OPS

*Subject: Coup in the Gambia
July 1981
cc: Mr. ...*

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GRS 295
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FM FCO 051632Z MAY 82
TO IMMEDIATE BANJUL
TELEGRAM NUMBER 68 OF 5 MAY

ELECTIONS

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT JAWARA AS SOON AS HE AND THE P.P.P. ARE CONFIRMED IN OFFICE FOLLOWING THE ELECTIONS.

BEGINS:

ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR RE-ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA, UNDER YOUR NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS, AND OF THE SUCCESS OF THE PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP IN BEING RETURNED AS THE MAJORITY PARTY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, I SEND YOU WARM GOOD WISHES FROM MYSELF AND MY COLLEAGUES TO YOU PERSONALLY AND THROUGH YOU TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE GAMBIA.

I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS MY VERY SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR ALL THE HELP YOU ARE PROVIDING TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES. THE ASSISTANCE WHICH YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT HAVE GIVEN IN ALLOWING RAF AIRCRAFT TO USE YUNDUM AIRPORT IS MOST DEEPLY APPRECIATED. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN IN CONDEMNING THE ACT OF AGGRESSION BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS SO CLEARLY EXPRESSED IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION NO 502. YOUR SUPPORT, AND THAT OF OUR OTHER COMMONWEALTH FRIENDS, HAS BEEN VERY ENCOURAGING TO ME AND MY COLLEAGUES. IT IS A POSITIVE EXPRESSION OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S PRINCIPLES OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS STAND ON THE NON-ACQUISITION OF TERRITORIES BY FORCE.

MAY I ALSO ADD MY OWN EXPRESSION OF RELIEF TO THAT SENT BY FRANCIS PYM THAT YOU SURVIVED THE RECENT TRAGIC HELICOPTER ACCIDENT WITHOUT SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY. I HOPE THAT YOU MAY ENJOY GOOD HEALTH AND YOUR COUNTRY PEACE AND PROGRESS IN THE

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COMING YEARS, AND THAT THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES
WILL GROW EVEN STRONGER.

YOURS SINCERELY

MARGARET THATCHER

ENDS

PYM

NNNN

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