

Subject cc Mates
of.



FILE

cc: FCO

rwj

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 November, 1983

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T178/83

My dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 31 October. I am glad to have this chance to reiterate the strength of British support for Portuguese accession and our determination to see democracy in Europe consolidated with the accession of your country to the European Community as soon as possible.

I sympathise with your sense of frustration at the sometimes slow and tortuous progress of your negotiations with the Community. These have in fact made considerable progress; I am particularly glad to see that, following the recent agreement among the Agriculture Ministers on the reform of arrangements for Mediterranean fruit and vegetables, the way is now clear for the Community to get down to serious discussion of the agricultural transitional arrangements with Portugal.

The post-Stuttgart negotiations are obviously of importance for Portugal, since these will change the Community for years to come. Our interest in an outcome which will ensure that no Member State is asked to bear a financial burden disproportionate to its means, and that agricultural expenditure is brought under effective control seems to me to coincide with points which you yourself have raised in your negotiations with the Community. We are doing all we can to bring these negotiations to an early and satisfactory conclusion, to put an end to the Community's internal debate and thus to lay a firm foundation for the essential task of enlargement.

/Like you,

rwj

Like you, we have always believed that the Portuguese and Spanish negotiations should be conducted entirely separately and on their respective merits. We share your hope that your negotiations will be completed during the first half of 1984, with the aim of signing a Treaty as soon as possible thereafter. We should like to see the Spanish negotiations brought to a successful conclusion in a similar timescale and we sympathise with the wish of both Spain and Portugal to enter the Community on 1 January, 1986. That is what we shall be working for.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Sheldrake

His Excellency Dr. Mario Soares

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 November 1983

John Taylor,

*OP
P22 type F
to PM.*

*7/10
h-a-*

Portugal and the European Community: Letter from the Portuguese
Prime Minister

I enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister to Dr Soares's letter of 31 October, as requested in your letter of the same day.

Dr Soares's letter was expected; the Prime Ministers of Spain and Portugal apparently agreed after the Athens Summit of Socialist leaders that they should write to the Prime Ministers of all Member States to express their concern about the slow pace of the accession negotiations. We still await a letter from the Spanish Prime Minister; but the Portuguese Foreign Minister has also written to the Secretary of State. Dr Soares's letter, with its talk of Portugal pursuing alternative paths if frustrated in her aim of early Community membership reflects the line taken by the two Iberian Prime Ministers at Athens.

The draft reply is, I think, largely self-explanatory. We are not the real target of this lobbying exercise; the Portuguese know that we are among their staunchest supporters in the Community, and the Prime Minister's reply should reflect this. It need do little more than assure them of our continuing help, and remind them that getting the right solution to the post-Stuttgart negotiations is as much in their interest as in ours (under the present budget rules, Portugal could end up - though much the poorest member of the Community - as a net contributor). The Portuguese wish to wrap up the negotiations by mid-1984 is decidedly optimistic, but they can be left to find that out for themselves.

/I am

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I am copying this letter and its enclosure to John Kerr in the Treasury and to Richard Hatfield in the Cabinet Office.

*Yours
R B Bone*

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

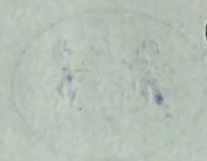
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Envo. Pol.: Enlargement of EC

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TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

46.
 Dr Mario Soares
 Prime Minister of Portugal

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 31 October. I am glad to have this chance to reiterate the strength of British support for Portuguese accession and our determination to see democracy in Europe consolidated with the accession of your country to the European Community as soon as possible.

CAVEAT.....

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Enclosures—flag(s).....

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