

B7.

cc Fca



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

13 May 1983

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T64A/83**

cc MASTER
OPS

Dear Mr. President,

I had been looking forward with so much pleasure to your visit next week. There are issues of importance which we should discuss together. But as you will probably have heard, we shall now be holding a general election here on 9 June.

It is our long-standing tradition not to entertain world political leaders in this country during a general election campaign and with the greatest regret I therefore have no option but to suggest that your visit should be postponed to a later date. I very much hope that mutually convenient dates for your visit can be found later in the year.

I do hope we shall be able to arrange a new date soon.

*Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher*

His Excellency President Samora Moises Machel

—

HL



Typel.

DRAFT TEXT OF A MESSAGE TO BE SENT FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
TO H.E. PRESIDENT SAMORA MOISES MACHEL OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

I had been looking forward with so much pleasure to your visit next week. There are issues of importance which we should discuss together. But as you will probably have heard, we shall now be holding a general election here on 9 June.

It is our longstanding tradition not to entertain world political leaders in this country during a general election campaign and with the greatest regret I therefore have no option but to suggest that your visit should be postponed to a later date. I very much hope that mutually convenient dates for your visit can be found later in the year.

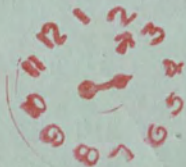
~~[To be added in the Prime Minister's hand]~~

~~I do hope that we shall be able to meet before the year is out.~~

AM 13/5



3 MAY 1983



CC MASTER
OPS

HW
LB
11/5

RESTRICTED

TOP COPY
7430 - 1

ZZ MAPUTO

GRS 159
RESTRICTED
FM F C O 100920Z MAY 83
TO FLASH MAPUTO

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T.61D/83.

TELEGRAM NUMBER 131 OF 10 MAY 1983,
INFO IMMEDIATE BRUSSELS,
INFO ROUTINE UKREP BRUSSELS, MOD (DS11).

1. OWING TO THE DECISION TO HOLD THE GENERAL ELECTION ON 9 JUNE IT IS UNFORTUNATELY NECESSARY TO POSTPONE PRESIDENT MACHEL'S VISIT. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT MACHEL:
BEGINS. I HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD WITH SO MUCH PLEASURE TO YOUR VISIT NEXT WEEK. THERE ARE ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE WHICH WE SHOULD DISCUSS TOGETHER. BUT AS YOU WILL PROBABLY HAVE HEARD, WE SHALL NOW BE HOLDING A GENERAL ELECTION HERE ON 9 JUNE.

IT IS OUR LONGSTANDING TRADITION NOT TO ENTERTAIN WORLD POLITICAL LEADERS IN THIS COUNTRY DURING A GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND WITH THE GREATEST REGRET I THEREFORE HAVE NO OPTION BUT TO SUGGEST THAT YOUR VISIT SHOULD BE POSTPONED TO A LATER DATE. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATES FOR YOUR VISIT CAN BE FOUND LATER IN THE YAR. ENDS.

PYM

NNNN
DISTRIBUTION:
LIMITED
CAFD
OAD
DEFENCE DEPT
NEWS DEPT
PCD
TRED
PS
PSMR HURD
PS/LORD BELSTEAD
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
SIR JOHN LEAHY
MR SQUIRE

COPIES TO:
PS/NO 10
ODA (MR BUIST)
DOT (MR TITCHENER)
ECGD (MISS WEST)
DEFENCE SALES (MR MAY)

RESTRICTED