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Department of State TELEGRAM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 5078

PAGE 01 STATE 016394 TOSEC 010129

45
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:MLDURKEE:MJK
APPROVED BY EUR/WE - MR. BARBOUR
S/S - MR. ORTIZ
EUR - MR. ETNG
NSC - TEXT RCVD FROM WHITE HOUSE

105515

O 221903Z JAN 76 ZFF5
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 016394 TOSEC 010129

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: INFO, SP, UK

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER WILSON

PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PRIME MINISTER WILSON IN RESPONSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER OF DECEMBER 22.

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

IT WAS VERY GOOD OF YOU TO PROVIDE ME WITH A FULLER EXPRESSION OF YOUR THINKING ON SPAIN, IN YOUR MESSAGE OF DECEMBER 22, 1975. YOUR ANALYSIS AND OURS ARE VERY SIMILAR, ALTHOUGH WE DIFFER SOMEWHAT AS TO THE POLICY CONCLUSIONS TO BE DRAWN.

I AGREE THAT THE SITUATION IN SPAIN WILL REMAIN FLUID FOR SOME TIME. THE KING HAS OUTLINED A GENERALLY

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
State Dept. Guidelines, Stat. Dir. 2009/17/03
NARA, Date 3/10/04
By



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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 STATE 016394 TOSEC 010129

PROGRESSIVE PLATFORM, HOWEVER, AND THE CABINET WILL REQUIRE BOTH TIME AND DETERMINATION TO IMPLEMENT IT. GIVEN THE RELATIVE STRENGTHS OF THE CONTENDING FORCES, THE KING AND HIS MINISTERS WILL NEED TO COMBINE PROGRESS WITH CONTINUITY. THE PACE THEY SET WILL NOT SATISFY ALL

OBSERVERS OR ALL SPANIARDS, BUT I BELIEVE THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE PRESSED TO MOVE MORE RAPIDLY THAN THE POLITICAL PRESSURES PERMIT. WHENEVER POSSIBLE, WE SHOULD ALL SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS NOW IN MOTION, AS YOU PROPOSE TO DO.

THE KING HAS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THAT HE WANTS TO MOVE BUT IS OPPOSED BY HARD-LINE ELEMENTS. TO BE EFFECTIVE, THE INFLUENCE OF FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE USED TO STRENGTHEN THE KING AND HIS CABINET.

FURTHER, WE SHOULD AVOID HAVING THE DEBATE ABOUT SPAIN'S TIES WITH EUROPE FOCUS ON LIBERALIZATION AS A PRICE SPAIN MUST PAY. EVEN MODERATE SPANIARDS ARE RESENTFUL OF FOREIGN PRESSURES. IN MY OPINION, IT WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE TO EMPHASIZE THE BENEFITS OF FULL PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS -- THROUGH INDUCEMENTS SUCH AS VISITS, HIGH-LEVEL STATEMENTS AND TRADE NEGOTIATIONS -- RATHER THAN TO THREATEN CONTINUED EXCLUSION FROM NATO AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS THEY FIND POSSIBLE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT SPAIN'S EUROPEAN IDENTITY IS RECOGNIZED AND VALUED. WE WANT TO WORK CLOSELY WITH YOU ON THIS AND TO TAILOR OUR EFFORTS TO POLITICAL REALITIES IN EUROPE. I REALIZE THAT NOT ALL OF OUR PARTNERS SHARE OUR VIEW THAT THEIR POSITIVE GESTURES NOW WILL BE MORE FRUITFUL THAN HOLDING BACK UNTIL GREATER CHANGES ARE MADE. TO ME, IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF PRESERVING THE OLD REGIME BUT RATHER OF ENCOURAGING PROGRESS WITH MINIMAL RISK OF PROVOKING RESISTANCE THAT MIGHT STOP ALL CHANGE.

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03 STATE 016394 TOSEC 010129

ON A PURELY BILATERAL MATTER, I TRUST OUR NEW AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN CAN BE CONCLUDED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. QUITE APART FROM THE OBVIOUS MILITARY ADVANTAGES FOR WESTERN SECURITY, WE SEE THIS COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT AS VERY USEFUL FOR THE BROAD CONTACTS IT GIVES US WITH LEADERS IN VARIOUS FIELDS THROUGHOUT SPAIN.

I WOULD LIKE TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH AS THE SPANISH SITUATION DEVELOPS, BOTH VIA THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND OUR OWN EXCHANGES. OUR DIFFERENCES SEEM TO BE MATTERS OF EMPHASIS RATHER THAN OF APPROACH. YOUR INTENTION TO GIVE THE KING THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT SEEMS TO ME THE BEST GENERAL APPROACH. WE SHALL DO THE SAME IN OUR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND SYMPATHY, VISITS, AND

STRENGTHENING OF CONTACTS.

SINCERELY: GERALD R. FORD. END OF TEXT.

SIGNED ORIGINAL WILL BE FORWARDED FOR LATER DELIVERY TO THE PRIME MINISTER, ROBINSON



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20

OP IMMED
DE WTE #1344 0771550
O 171520Z MAR 76
FM THE PRESIDENT

TO THE PRIME MINISTER

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ WH60353

MARCH 17, 1976

FROM THE PRESIDENT

TO THE PRIME MINISTER

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

IT WAS WITH THE DEEPEST PERSONAL REGRET THAT I RECEIVED YOUR MARCH 16 MESSAGE INFORMING ME OF YOUR DECISION TO RESIGN AS PRIME MINISTER.

FROM OUR FIRST MEETING IN WASHINGTON NEARLY FOURTEEN MONTHS AGO, I HAVE HIGHLY VALUED OUR CONSULTATIONS AND REGARDED THE COOPERATION OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES AS FUNDAMENTAL TO LARGER EFFORTS BY THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES TO MEET THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SECURITY CHALLENGES WE ALL FACE IN COMMON.

IN EACH OF OUR MEETINGS DURING THE PAST YEAR, I BELIEVE THAT THE INTERESTS OF OUR COUNTRIES AND OF OUR ALLIES HAVE BEEN ADVANCED, THE SUCCESSFUL NATO SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO REVITALIZATION OF THE ALLIANCE AND TO NEW STEPS IMPROVING OUR MUTUAL SECURITY, OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTED TO A MORE RESPONSIBLE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EAST BUT ALSO DEMONSTRATED WESTERN SOLIDARITY AND COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AT RAMBOUILLET I BELIEVE OUR TALKS AND THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED CONTRIBUTED TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC, IN EACH OF THESE MEETINGS, I HAVE ADMIRERD YOUR BROAD PERSPECTIVE AND SOUND JUDGEMENT AND VALUED YOUR ADVICE,

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOUR SUCCESSOR IN BUILDING UPON THE EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES THAT YOU HAVE DONE SO MUCH TO STRENGTHEN.

AS YOU LAY DOWN THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER FOLLOWING YOUR LONG AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE BOTH TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT YOU HAVE NOT ONLY MY PERSONAL BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE BUT MY LASTING FRIENDSHIP AS WELL.

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

MYLAND, MCPARLANE, RODMAN

RECALLED

PSN:130316

PAGE 01

TOR:077/15159Z

DTG:171520Z MAR 76

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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES

BY: lba, NARA, DATE: 3/10/04



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WARM PERSONAL REGARDS,

GERALD R. FORD
0335

PSN:030310

RECALLED
PAGE 02

OF 02

TOR:077/15:59Z

DTG:171520Z MAR 76

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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

1580X

26
Tab A
retyped

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/XGDS

ACTION
March 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: Mr. Clift *RC*

SUBJECT: Presidential Message to Prime Minister Wilson

Prime Minister Wilson has sent a message (at Tab B) via the British Embassy informing the President of his intention to resign. The Prime Minister states how much he has valued his relationship with the President during the past two years and expresses confidence that the new Prime Minister will attach the highest importance to maintaining the excellent state of relations between our two countries.

I believe it would be appropriate for the President to reply to the Prime Minister message via the Cabinet Line. The memorandum for your signature to the President at Tab I would forward the text of Wilson's message together with a proposed reply for the President's approval.

As the Wilson message was also delivered to State, I would recommend that you approve the NODIS memorandum for Jeanne Davis' signature to State (Tab II), passing the text of the President's response for the information of the Department. I would also recommend that you approve the backchannel message to Ambassador Armstrong (Tab III) providing her with the texts of Wilson's message and the President's response.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That you approve the text of the Cabinet Line message at Tab A and sign the memorandum for the President at Tab I.

APPROVE _____ DISAPPROVE _____

2. That you approve the memorandum for Jeanne Davis' signature to State at Tab II.

APPROVE *per BS* _____ DISAPPROVE _____



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NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY MM, NARA, DATE 3/10/04

3. That you approve the backchannel message to Anne Armstrong at Tab III.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

2c

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PREL



Cathy -

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These are the out -
going cables & have
been sent Char



24
FROM THE PRESIDENT
TO THE PRIME MINISTER

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

VIA THE CABINET LINE

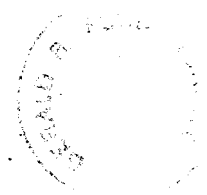
Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

It was with the deepest personal regret that I received your March 16 message informing me of your decision to resign as Prime Minister.

From our first meeting in Washington nearly fourteen months ago, I have highly valued our consultations and regarded the cooperation of our two countries as fundamental to larger efforts by the industrial democracies to meet the economic, political and security challenges we all face in common.

In each of our meetings during the past year, I believe that the interests of our countries and of our allies have been advanced. The successful NATO summit in Brussels contributed significantly to revitalization of the Alliance and to new steps improving our mutual security. Our participation in the Helsinki conference not only contributed to a more responsible relationship with the East but also demonstrated Western solidarity and commitment to the cause of human rights. At Rambouillet I believe our talks and the understandings reached contributed to economic recovery on both sides of the Atlantic. In each of these meetings, I have admired your broad perspective and sound judgment and have valued your advice.

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NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY WJ, NARA, DATE 3/10/04

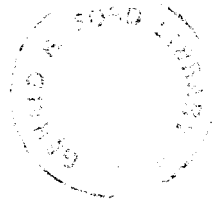


I look forward to working with your successor in building upon the excellent relationship between our countries that you have done so much to strengthen.

As you lay down the responsibilities of the office of Prime Minister following your long and distinguished service both to the United Kingdom and to the Atlantic Alliance, you should know that you have not only my personal best wishes for the future but my ~~hope for~~ lasting friendship as well.

Warm personal regards,

Gerald R. Ford



24

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
Presidential Libraries Withdrawal Sheet

WITHDRAWAL ID 017612

REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL National security restriction

TYPE OF MATERIAL Cable

CREATOR'S NAME Brent Scowcroft

RECEIVER'S NAME Ambassador Armstrong

TITLE Presidential Message to Prime Minister
Wilson

DESCRIPTION Re Wilson resignation

CREATION DATE 03/17/1976

VOLUME 3 pages

COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 035100085

COLLECTION TITLE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. PRESIDENTIAL
CORRESPONDENCE WITH FOREIGN LEADERS

BOX NUMBER 4

FOLDER TITLE United Kingdom - Prime Minister Harold
Wilson (3)

DATE WITHDRAWN 03/12/2004

WITHDRAWING ARCHIVIST GG

REDACTED 7/3/06

DECLASSIFIED • E.O. 12958 SEC. 3.8
WITH PORTIONS EXEMPTED
E.O. 12958 SEC. 1.5 (c)
CIA 22 7/3/06
MR05-34 #4: State removed 9/17/03

BY dal NARA DATE 8/11/06

[REDACTED]

TO: Embassy London, Ambassador Armstrong - Eyes Only

FROM: Brent Scowcroft, The White House *RS*

SUBJECT: Presidential Message to Prime Minister Wilson

1. On March 16, Prime Minister Wilson sent a message informing the President of his decision to resign. For your information, I am repeating the texts of the Prime Minister's message and the President's response.

BEGIN TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE:

Dear Mr. President,

As you will have seen from the announcement issued this morning from 10 Downing Street, I have today confirmed to The Queen my decision taken last December to make way for a successor, and to resign as Prime Minister as soon as the Parliamentary party has completed the necessary constitutional procedures for electing a new leader.

I shall, of course, remain in charge of the Government until a new leader of the party has been elected and my successor has been appointed, but I wanted now to tell you how much I have valued our cooperation and friendship during the past two years, and to assure you of my conviction that the British Government, whoever my successor may be, will continue to attach the highest importance to maintaining the excellent state



of relations between our two countries. In receiving your new Ambassador, whom we have been delighted to welcome to this country, you were kind enough to say that our relations were as good as they have ever been. I share this view, and am certain that a continuing close relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom is of vital importance, not only to our two countries, but also the future security and well-being of Europe and the free world.

With warm regards,

Harold Wilson

END TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE.

BEGIN TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE:

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

It was with the deepest personal regret that I received your March 16 message informing me of your decision to resign as Prime Minister.

From our first meeting in Washington nearly fourteen months ago, I have highly valued our consultations and regarded the cooperation of our two countries as fundamental to larger efforts by the industrial democracies to meet the economic, political and security challenges we all face in common.



In each of our meetings during the past year, I believe that the interests of our countries and of our allies have been advanced. The successful NATO summit in Brussels contributed significantly to revitalization of the Alliance and to new steps improving our mutual security. Our participation in the Helsinki conference not only contributed to a more responsible relationship with the East but also demonstrated Western solidarity and commitment to the cause of human rights. At Rambouillet I believe our talks and the understandings reached contributed to economic recovery on both sides of the Atlantic. In each of these meetings, I have admired your broad perspective and sound judgment and have valued your advice.

I look forward to working with your successor in building upon the excellent relationship between our countries that you have done so much to strengthen.

As you lay down the responsibilities of the office of Prime Minister following your long and distinguished service both to the United Kingdom and to the Atlantic Alliance, you should know that you have not only my personal best wishes for the future but my ~~hope for a~~ lasting friendship as well.

Warm personal regards,

Gerald R. Ford



END OF PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE.

2. Warm regards, Brent.

MEMORANDUM

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1580X

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/XGDS

ACTION

March 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Brent Scowcroft *B*

SUBJECT: Message to Prime Minister Wilson
on His Resignation

Prime Minister Wilson has sent you the message at Tab B informing you of his decision to resign as Prime Minister as soon as a successor can be selected. He states that he will remain in charge of the Government until a new leader has been appointed. Mr. Wilson tells you how much he has valued your cooperation and friendship and assures you that the British Government will continue to attach the highest importance to maintaining the excellent state of relations between the United Kingdom and the United States.

Noting your comments through Ambassador Armstrong that our bilateral relations are as good as they have ever been, the Prime Minister expresses his certainty that the continuing close relationship between the UK and the US is of vital importance to the future security and well-being of Europe and the free world.

I believe a response to the Prime Minister's message is desirable. The Cabinet Line message for your approval at Tab A would express regret at the Prime Minister's decision and state that from his January, 1975 visit to Washington you have valued close consultations with him and regarded cooperation with the UK as fundamental to efforts by the industrial democracies to meet the challenges all face in common. It would state your view that each subsequent meeting with the Prime Minister -- at Brussels, Helsinki and Rambouillet -- has advanced the interests of the US and UK and of our allies. Your message to the Prime Minister would indicate that you look forward to working closely with his successor to build upon the close relationship established while he was Prime Minister. It would assure the Prime Minister of your lasting friendship and extend your personal best wishes.

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BY lck, NARA, DATE 3/10/04



RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the Cabinet Line message to Prime Minister at Tab A.

APPROVE RFJ

DISAPPROVE _____







B

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2k
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

16 March 1976

The President
The White House

Dear Mr. President

The British Prime Minister, Mr Harold Wilson, has asked me to forward to you a personal message from him, which is enclosed herewith.

Yours sincerely
Peter Ramsbotham

(P Ramsbotham)
H M Ambassador





TEXT OF MESSAGE

Dear Mr. President,

As you will have seen from the announcement issued this morning from 10 Downing Street, I have today confirmed to The Queen my decision taken last December to make way for a successor, and to resign as Prime Minister as soon as the Parliamentary party has completed the necessary constitutional procedures for electing a new leader.

I shall, of course, remain in charge of the Government until a new leader of the party has been elected and my successor has been appointed, but I wanted now to tell you how much I have valued our cooperation and friendship during the past two years, and to assure you of my conviction that the British Government, whoever my successor may be, will continue to attach the highest importance to maintaining the excellent state of relations between our two countries. In receiving your new Ambassador, whom we have been delighted to welcome to this country, you were kind enough to say that our relations were as good as they have ever been. I share this view, and am certain that a continuing close relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom is of vital importance, not only to our two countries, but also the future security and well-being of Europe and the free world.

With warm regards,

Harold Wilson

16 March 1976



2.11



BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

16 March 1976

The President
The White House

Dear Mr. President

The British Prime Minister, Mr Harold Wilson, has asked me to forward to you a personal message from him, which is enclosed herewith.

*Yours sincerely
Peter Ramsbotham*

(P Ramsbotham)
H M Ambassador



Tab B
21

TEXT OF MESSAGE

Dear Mr. President,

As you will have seen from the announcement issued this morning from 10 Downing Street, I have today confirmed to The Queen my decision taken last December to make way for a successor, and to resign as Prime Minister as soon as the Parliamentary party has completed the necessary constitutional procedures for electing a new leader.

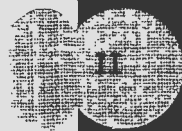
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With warm regards,

Harold Wilson

16 March 1976





THE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

TIME SENT:

'76 MAR 17 PM 12:01

RECEIVED:

Received for
by phone
D1205

LDX NR:

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM
246 PAGES: 5

CIA _____	DIA/G _____
STATE <u>X</u> _____	DIA/H _____
NMCC _____	TREAS _____
ANMCC _____	NPIC _____
NSA _____	ERDA _____

DESCRIPTION/COMMENT

Nodis

FROM:

Jeanne W Davis

TO:

George S Springsteen



NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

1580X

~~CONFIDENTIAL/NODIS~~

March 17, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR

George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary
Department of State

SUBJECT: Presidential Message to
Prime Minister Wilson

On March 16, Prime Minister Wilson sent a message informing the President of his decision to resign. Copies of the Prime Minister's message and the President's response are attached for the information of the Department of State.


Jeanne W. Davis
Staff Secretary

Attachments

~~CONFIDENTIAL/NODIS~~

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NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY , NARA, DATE 3/10/04





BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

16 March 1976

The President
The White House

Dear Mr. President

The British Prime Minister, Mr Harold Wilson, has asked me to forward to you a personal message from him, which is enclosed herewith.

Yours sincerely
Peter Ramsbotham

(P Ramsbotham)
H M Ambassador



TEXT OF MESSAGE

Dear Mr. President,

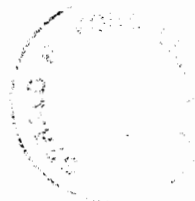
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I shall, of course, remain in charge of the Government until a new leader of the party has been elected and my successor has been appointed, but I wanted now to tell you how much I have valued our cooperation and friendship during the past two years, and to assure you of my conviction that the British Government, whoever my successor may be, will continue to attach the highest importance to maintaining the excellent state of relations between our two countries. In receiving your new Ambassador, whom we have been delighted to welcome to this country, you were kind enough to say that our relations were as good as they have ever been. I share this view, and am certain that a continuing close relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom is of vital importance, not only to our two countries, but also the future security and well-being of Europe and the free world.

With warm regards,

Harold Wilson

16 March 1976



22

FROM THE PRESIDENT
TO THE PRIME MINISTER

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

VIA THE CABINET LINE


Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

It was with the deepest personal regret that I received your March 16 message informing me of your decision to resign as Prime Minister.

From our first meeting in Washington nearly fourteen months ago, I have highly valued our consultations and regarded the cooperation of our two countries as fundamental to larger efforts by the industrial democracies to meet the economic, political and security challenges we all face in common.

In each of our meetings during the past year, I believe that the interests of our countries and of our allies have been advanced. The successful NATO summit in Brussels contributed significantly to revitalization of the Alliance and to new steps improving our mutual security. Our participation in the Helsinki conference not only contributed to a more responsible relationship with the East but also demonstrated Western solidarity and commitment to the cause of human rights. At Rambouillet I believe our talks and the understandings reached contributed to economic recovery on both sides of the Atlantic. In each of these meetings, I have admired your broad perspective and sound judgment and have valued your advice.

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BY Na, NARA, DATE 3/10/04



I look forward to working with your successor in building upon the excellent relationship between our countries that you have done so much to strengthen.

As you lay down the responsibilities of the office of Prime Minister following your long and distinguished service both to the United Kingdom and to the Atlantic Alliance, you should know that you have not only my personal best wishes for the future but my ~~hope for a~~ lasting friendship as well.

Warm personal regards,

Gerald R. Ford

