



cc FCO

vb

Suarez

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 March 1981

Dear Senor Suarez

I should like to thank you for your kind letter of 11 February and for the feelings of friendship which you have expressed.

I have greatly enjoyed working with you and should like to express my sincere admiration for your contribution to restoring democracy to Spain. I felt the greatest possible relief that the events of 23 February proved abortive; but it must have been a searing personal experience for you and all the other Deputies in the Cortes. I much admired your personal courage on that occasion.

With very best wishes for the future.

signed

MT

Senor Don Adolfo Suarez Gonzalez

jfh

Spain



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Type draft for PM's signature

13 March 1981

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 11 March enclosing a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Sr Suarez. I enclose a translation as you requested.

Although it is not strictly necessary for the Prime Minister to reply to Sr Suarez's letter, there is no doubt that he would appreciate an acknowledgement. He has expressed great admiration for the Prime Minister on several occasions in the past. I am therefore enclosing a draft reply.

Yours ever,

(F N Richards)

Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing St

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: **TEL. NO:**

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

Your Reference

Sr Adolfo Suarez Gonzalez

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:

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I have greatly enjoyed working with you and should like to express my sincere admiration for your contribution to restoring democracy to Spain. I felt the greatest possible relief that the events of 23 February proved abortive; but it must have been a searing personal experience for you and all the other Deputies in the Cortes. I ~~should like to say how much~~ **I** admired your personal courage on that occasion.

With very best wishes for the future.

Enclosures—flag(s).....



TRANSLATION

The President of the Government
Madrid, 11 February 1981

Most Excellent Mrs Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
LONDON

My Dear Prime Minister and Friend

Having submitted my resignation as President of the Government to His Majesty the King, I wish to express my feelings of friendship towards yourself and towards the United Kingdom.

During my term of office, I had the honour of establishing with you a very satisfactory and productive personal relationship which allowed relations between our two countries to develop in a constructive and cordial way and eased the way towards the solution of our problems at a time when my country's application to join the European Economic Community received the support of the United Kingdom.

Please accept, my dear Prime Minister, along with my sincere wishes for your personal happiness, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Adolfo Suarez.



LPO

P/e

Spain

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 March 1981

BF

dated
11/2/81

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the former Prime Minister of Spain, Mr. Suarez. I should be grateful if you could let me have a translation of Mr. Suarez's letter, together with a draft reply if you think it necessary for the Prime Minister to send one.

MA

F. N. Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

9.

file BK

10 March 1981

I am replying on the Prime Minister's behalf to your letter to her of 4 March.

The letter which you enclosed from Don Adolfo Suarez has been placed before the Prime Minister.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

His Excellency Senor Don Fernando Arias Salgado

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SPANISH AMBASSADOR

24 BELGRAVE SQUARE
LONDON SW1X 8QA

4th March 1981

Dear Prime Minister

Filed
under
11/2/81

I have pleasure in forwarding the enclosed letter that the former President of the Spanish Council of Ministers, Don Adolfo Suarez, has sent addressed to you.

Yours sincerely

FERNANDO ARIAS SALGADO

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1.