

(b)
(Original)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A MESSAGE RECEIVED BY THE MINISTER FROM THE RT. HON. DUNCAN SANDYS, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS. THIS MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED TO MR. GREEN BY LORD AMORY TODAY AND FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT:

(sent OPIMMED CONFD to five posts. Cost: not-computable)

(Proposed Revision)

FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SANDYS TO MINISTER DELIVERED TODAY BY AMORY:

(Cost: 23% of not-computable)

21. The intensive survey of all outgoing messages over a three-day period revealed no error, infelicity or misfortune in drafting which could not have been stopped or amended within the Division.

Ottawa - Incoming Telegrams

22. Telegrams from abroad are a responsibility of the Heads of Mission, and, ideally, all malpractices should be avoided or excised at the source. Our Heads of Mission, however, hold widely disparate convictions, stemming from their varied experience, education, judgment and taste; they are normally at odds, in some measure, with Ottawa; and their assessments of malpractice and virtue, as expressed or implied in this survey, will not be unanimous or even general. The Septuagint was a non-recurring miracle.

23. This survey is not concerned with technical matters, but with the content and style of messages; and on this theme it should conclude. In brief, the style of any literary composition is related to the medium of communication. The epigram, on whatever subject, still reveals its origin - an epitaph to be carved in stone; its virtues are brevity, precision and grace. The styles of Marcel Proust or Henry James, however admirably designed for their authors' intentions, are ill-suited for a newspaper; many of the sciences have developed specialized methods of communication not intelligible to the layman; electronic computers respond only to the stimulus of tapes elaborately and accurately prepared; and so on. The virtues of communications systems are speed, accuracy and security, when these are essential to the messages conveyed. It may therefore follow that if diplomatic business is to benefit from new techniques in communications, its content and style must be disciplined to the demands of the new media. To those dismayed by such a prospect, it may be reassuring to bear