



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270 1272
Fax: 0171 270 0618

10 January 1996

Thank you for the interest you have shown in Humphrey, the Cabinet Office cat.

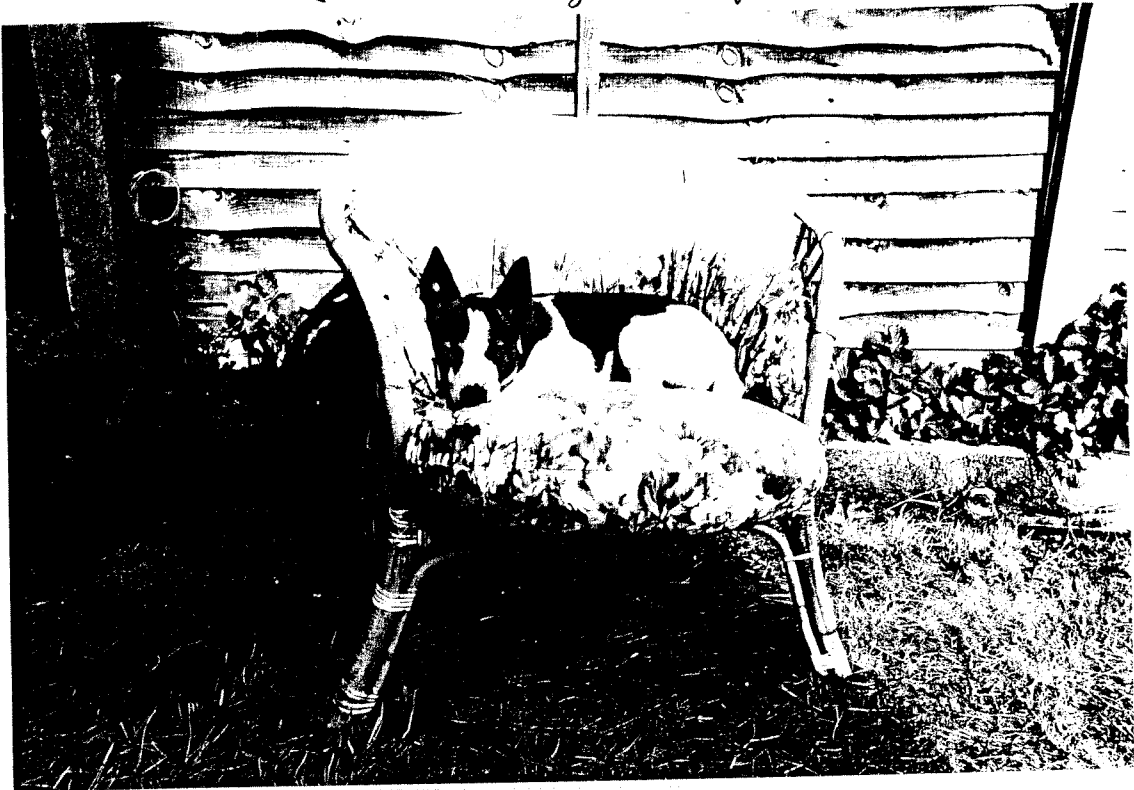
I enclose a photograph of Humphrey with his friend

Yours sincerely

Encs

*P!se sign
HUMPHREY'S
PHOTO. THANKING-
YOU IN PARTICIPATION.

Dear Mr Major, K1006
WHEN YOU NEED TO FIND SOME-
WHERE ELSE TO LIVE AFTER
THE NEXT ELECTION MY JACK
RUSSELL TERRIER 'FIKO' (FEE-
KO) WOULD BE VERY PLEASED
TO OFFER 'HUMPHREY'
TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION'
ON A 'RUNNING' BASIS. *
AN EXCHANGE PHOTO WOULD BE
APPRECIATED. HE JUST LOVES
CATS! Yours sincerely M.J. Spencer.



'HUMPHREY' ALWAYS
THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU HERE IF YOU
EVER NEED A NEW HOME.

THE ABILITY TO BE ABLE TO RUN THE
1/4 MILE ON 'SPORTS DAY' IS A
DISTINCT ADVANTAGE, AND EVERY
DAY'S A 'SPORTS DAY FOR CATS' AS
FAR AS WE DOGS ROUND HERE ARE
CONCERNED.....!

REGARDS
'FIKO'

FAX MESSAGE

From:

Date:

To:

No. of pages (including this cover): one

Re. Humphrey prints

6" x 4" → 101 prints at 70p. each = £ 70,70

7" x 5" / 6" x 8" → 101 prints at 80p. each = £ 80,80
(same price → 151 to 250 at 70p each)

I hope, this helps, I have checked a couple of price lists, they are all about the same.

The reason for the higher price (compared to Books, Snappy Snaps etc.) is the negative size, they have got to be printed by a commercial lab.

Best wishes,



Humphrey

Accommodation Services

From:
Tel: 210 0505
Date: 19 January 1996

HUMPHREY

Thank you for the Humphrey photograph information.

2. I would be grateful if you could order 150 (one hundred and fifty) copies of photograph number 13/II of Humphrey, taken by [redacted] The photograph size should be 6" x 4" and, if possible, should have a small, white border.
3. The invoice should be sent to me for payment.
4. Many thanks for all your help with this.

Accommodation Services Manager

File: Humphrey

20 January 1996

Dear

I recently received a letter from _____ who suggested I contact you about the following matter.

I'm an American teacher working at RAF Alconbury and a freelance writer. The subject of Humphrey, the Cabinet Office cat intrigued me and I would like to receive more information about the furry feline.

What is his history? Where did he come from? Who named him? How old is he? Is he neutered? Who feeds him? What news stories has he been connected with? What kidney disease does he have (as one station reported)? When did he go missing? Who found him?

May I also have any newspaper article copies you have and a photograph of Humphrey?

Presently, I'm collecting this information for a children's book in the memory of Humphrey, and as a learning aid. I'm aware of the books written by Rushton and Brawn.

Any information you have concerning Humphrey's past, present and future will be greatly appreciated. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Fide - COCat



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270 1272
Fax: 0171 270 0618

1 February 1996

Dear

Thank you for the interest you have shown in Humphrey, the Cabinet Office cat.

Humphrey came to the Cabinet Office in 1990, when he was about a year old. There has been a history of having Cabinet Office and Treasury cats dating back to the reign of Henry VIII. Predecessors include Wilberforce and Treasury Bill.

Humphrey, a stray, needed a good home. Humphrey was named after a ballot among the staff. He is named after the fictional Sir Humphrey Appleby of the 'Yes Minister' television series. The actor Nigel Hawthorne is one of his fans.

Humphrey is a 'moggy' an ordinary black and white, fluffy cat. He is looked after by staff on the ground floor of the building and spends his time in the reception area or in his more private quarters.

Humphrey was accused of the murder of baby robins in a nest near the Prime Minister's Office in Spring '94. This was a libellous allegation and was completely unfounded. This was at a time when Humphrey, a gentle natured cat, had been ill with kidney trouble and was sleeping for most of the day. He could not have caught anything even if it had been roast duck with orange sauce, presented to him on a plate.

Unlike the Clinton's family cat 'Socks', Humphrey is the office cat. If there is a change of administration he will stay in office.

I enclose a photograph of Humphrey and a copy of the press release produced on his return home.

Yours sincerely



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

File cat

Tel: 0171 270 1272
Fax: 0171 270 0618

14 February 1996

Social Action (Cat documentary)
Western House
BBC Radio 2
Portland Place
London, W1A 1AA

Dear

Thank you for the interest you have shown in Humphrey, the Cabinet Office cat.

Humphrey came to the Cabinet Office in 1990, when he was about a year old. There has been a history of having Cabinet Office and Treasury cats dating back to the reign of Henry VIII. Predecessors include Wilberforce and Treasury Bill.

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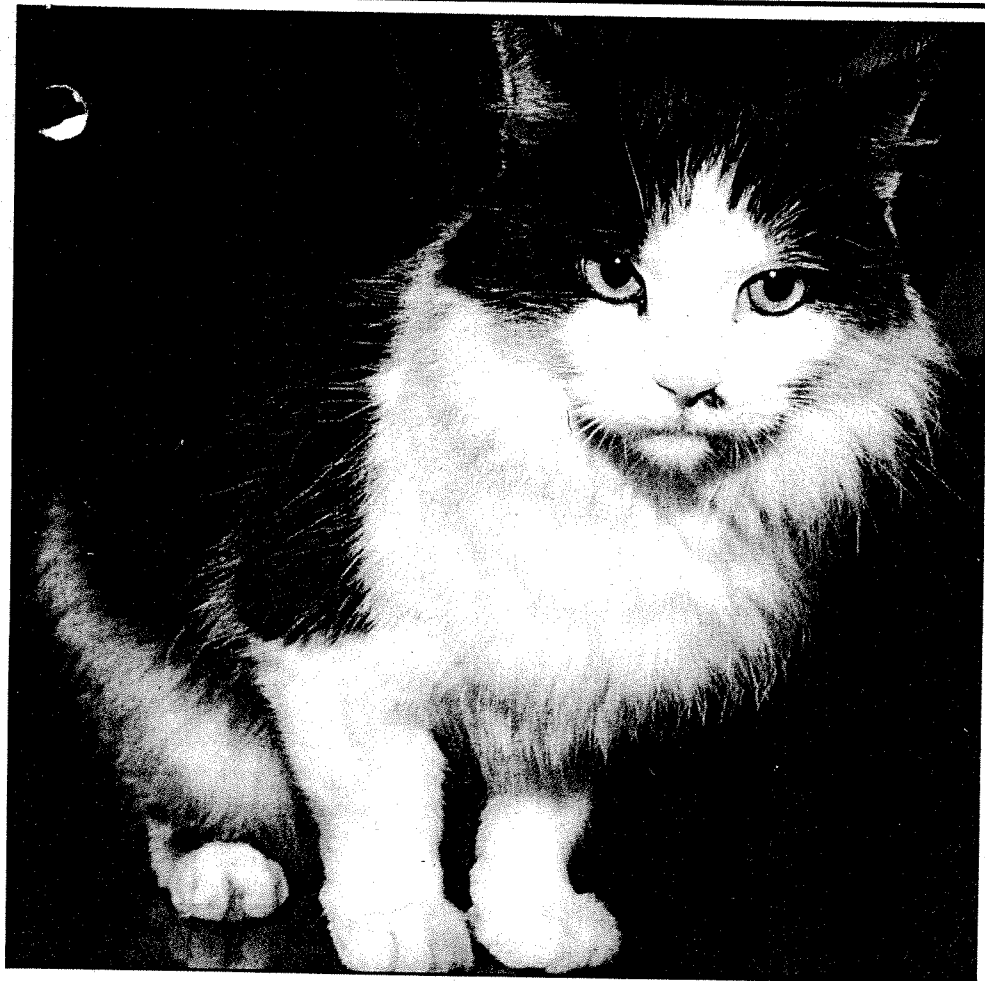
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I enclose a photograph of Humphrey and a copy of the press release produced on his return home.

Yours sincerely



EIGHT LIVES LEFT: Humphrey at Downing St yesterday

Picture: TIM CLARKE

**High-living Humphrey's back
in his No.10 pad**

See Page 3

TO THE SECRETARY.

7th February. 1996.

Dear Sir or Madam,

After sorting out some old newspapers last week I found the article on the Downing Street cat 'Humphreys' return home last year.

I was surprised to see how like my eight year old cat "Tigger" is to the famous star.

I have enclosed the cutting and a photograph of same to see if you agree.

Tigger also lives at No 10. and is needless to say a true blue feline member!

Yours sincerely,

**PRIME MINISTER'S
CORRESPONDENCE SECTION**

*Writer informed that letter has been
forwarded to the appropriate
Government Department
for a full reply*

**PRIME MINISTER'S
CORRESPONDENCE SECTION**

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Government Department
for a full reply*



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
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1

28 February 1996

Thank you for your letter expressing an interest in the Cabinet office cat 'Humphrey', this was greatly appreciated.

I have enclosed a photo of Humphrey for your own interest and once again thank you for your letter and the photo of your cat 'Tigger'.

Yours sincerely,

Float

Humphrey

FROM :

DATE : 6 March 1996

HUMPHREY LETTER

1. Please find attached a letter from a "Cat Artist" from the West Country inquiring about the possibility of being able to meet and paint Humphrey.
2. Press Office recommend that you decline this offer given that if granted and then publicised it would encourage further similar requests that would be increasingly difficult to turn down.

Press Office
TEL 071-270 0317

18 Cash off
2 Press. JG

11213

Dear Mr Mayor, 8/3/96
Would you please let
me know if I can
purchase a picture of
Humpyrey, I do a lot of
work for animals and
your cat's picture would be
greatly appreciated

Yours Truly

**PRIME MINISTER'S
CORRESPONDENCE SECTION**

*Writer informed that letter has been
forwarded to the appropriate
Government Department
for a full reply*



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
Fax: 0171 270 0618

22nd March 1996

Dear

Thank you for your letter expressing an interest in the Cabinet office cat 'Humphrey', this was greatly appreciated.

I have enclosed a photo of Humphrey for your own interest and once again thank you for your letter.

Yours sincerely,



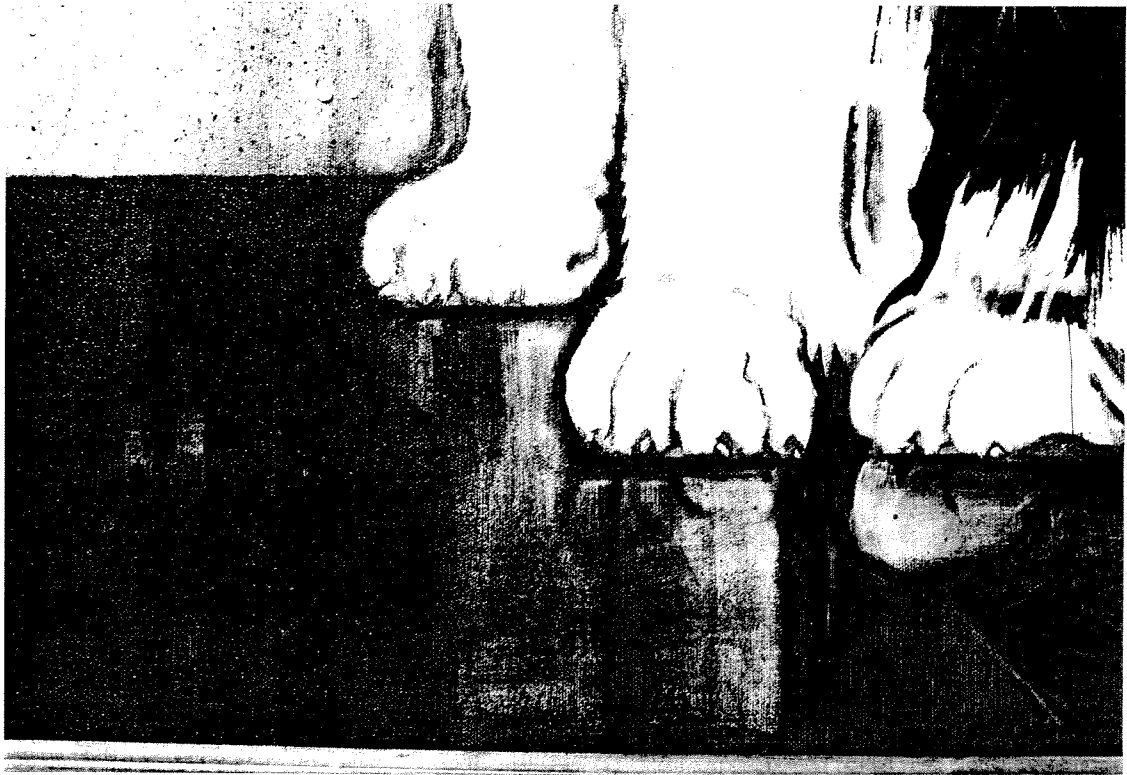
MY THREE SUBMISSIONS FOR THE 1996
ROYAL ACADEMY SUMMER EXHIBITION.



INTERPRETATION IN ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
WITH GOLD SPATTERWORK, BASED ON
HUMPHREY.



CLOSE UP OF FACE AND GOLD DETAIL "THE PRODIGAL SON"



CLOSE UP OF PAWS, REFLECTIONS AND TITLE



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270 1272
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29 March 1996

Dear

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Humphrey came to the Cabinet Office in 1990, when he was about a year old. There has been a history of having Cabinet Office and Treasury cats dating back to the reign of Henry VIII. Predecessors include Wilberforce and Treasury Bill.

Humphrey, a stray, needed a good home. Humphrey was named after a ballot among the staff. He is named after the fictional Sir Humphrey Appleby of the 'Yes Minister' television series. The actor Nigel Hawthorne is one of his fans.

Humphrey is a 'moggy' an ordinary black and white, fluffy cat. He is looked after by staff on the ground floor of the building and spends his time in the reception area or in his more private quarters.

Humphrey was accused of the murder of baby robins in a nest near the Prime Minister's Office in Spring '94. This was a libellous allegation and was completely unfounded. This was at a time when Humphrey, a gentle natured cat, had been ill with kidney trouble and was sleeping for most of the day. He could not have caught anything even if it had been roast duck with orange sauce, presented to him on a plate.

Unlike the Clinton's family cat 'Socks', Humphrey is the office cat. If there is a change of administration he will stay in office.

I enclose a copy of the press release produced on his return home and am forwarding your letter to the No 10 press office for answer, when the grounds were mortared by the IRA.

Yours sincerely

CABINET OFFICE
TO 7917
27 MAR 1996
TRUNG HIEP
FILE 17 PM

pls T

R11

Pres Office #13196

Dear Sir

I please forgive me for writing to you directly, but it has been suggested by a newspaper that I do this as they haven't the staff to look into my request.

I am a short story writer and would like to know the name of the house cat and when it went missing recently and for how long.

Could you also inform me when the House was monitored by the IRA.

Yours Sincerely

CORRESPONDENCE SECTION
An acknowledgment has been sent.
It is important to check date of acknowledgment is sent by your Department, and a FULL REPLY IF NECESSARY

Humphrey



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270 1272
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21 May 1996

Dear

Thank you for the interest you have shown in Humphrey, the Cabinet Office cat. Humphrey declines from all interviews and he is a rather shy cat but, he is very pleased to supply you with the information below.

Humphrey came to the Cabinet Office in 1990, when he was about a year old. There has been a history of having Cabinet Office and Treasury cats dating back to the reign of Henry VIII. Predecessors include Wilberforce and Treasury Bill.

Humphrey, a stray, needed a good home. Humphrey was named after a ballot among the staff. He is named after the fictional Sir Humphrey Appleby of the 'Yes Minister' television series. The actor Nigel Hawthorne is one of his fans.

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I enclose a photograph of Humphrey and a copy of the press release produced on his return home.

Yours sincerely

8th May '96

Dear Sir,

the new editor of ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS ,
has asked me to prepare an illustrated article on CAPITAL CATS
looking at character cats around the City of London.

I have read several times about Humphry, The Downing Street Cat,
who became famous after his recent long walkabout, so naturally I
am seeking permission now to interview him at a later date.

I would be grateful for any help you might offer particularly
with information - perhaps a press sheet? - which I might present
to my Editor.

Thank you.

FROM:

DATE: 3 June 1996

PRESS OFFICE

I received a call last week from
letter) regarding Humphrey.

She wrote to us recently (see attached

Her paintings are going to be shown at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, and her local paper, the "Wakefield Express" (the journalist will be Julie Marshall) want to interview her. She wants to know if the Cabinet Office have any comments about the paintings. I said that I would ask our press office to ring her. Her telephone number

We have not yet replied to her letter - I did explain that we were ploughing our way through quite a few, and she would receive a reply in a couple of weeks!

Could you please return her letter to me, and let me know the outcome.

Thanks.

DONATION OF THE PAINTING " THE PRODIGAL SON " TO THE CABINET
OFFICE

Dear

Please find enclosed confirmation of my donation of the portrait of Humphrey the Downing Street cat to the Cabinet Office Whitehall. The work measuring 46x36 and framed in pine, is an acrylic on canvas, and I am honoured that you are able to accept and hang it. The work is entitled "The Prodigal Son " and celebrates Humphrey's return home last year. It seems appropriate that it now remains in London to be enjoyed by those who know the subject well-and I do hope that Humphrey himself approves of the likeness !

Perhaps on one of my regular visits to London it would be possible to see The Prodigal Son hung "in situ" in the setting which befits the painting best. Please confirm safe receipt from The Royal Academy's carriers Wingate and Johnston

Your's sincerely



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270 1272
Fax: 0171 270 0618

10 July 1996

Dear

'THE PRODIGAL SON'

Thank you for your donation of the above named painting. It was unfortunate that you were unsuccessful with the competition. We in Cabinet Office have had a lot of comments on the painting and we think it is delightful, we are presently looking for an appropriate position in which to hang it in.

Once the painting has been hung, you will be most welcome to come and see it when you are in London.

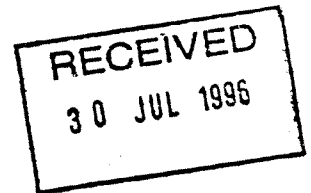
Thank you once again for your donation and we look forward to meeting you when you visit us.

Yours sincerely

bat

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS GROUP

The Illustrated London News Orient-Express Magazine E&O Magazine
Goode's Magazine Natural World Blue Riband Island Visitor



July 26th 1996

Dear

Thank you very much for your letter of 21st May to our writer Gregory Holyoake. We were very disappointed to hear that Humphrey is so shy that he could not meet Mr Holyoake to talk to him for our London Cats at Christmas feature. Is there any chance that the warm summer weather may have brought him out of his shell?

We are very keen to find out how Humphrey spends his Christmas - whether he receives lots of presents, whether he has special Christmas food, if he has any particular visitors. Have any of the Prime Ministers, or other visitors, given him special gift We also wondered if Humphrey may have a photograph of himself taken at Christmas - maybe at a Christmas party?

We really appreciate all your help towards what is becoming a delightful Christmas feature. Mr Holyoake has already met with several of London's Top Cats, and has discovered their many intriguing Christmas activities.

Yours sincerely,

20 Upper Ground, London SE1 9PF Telephone: 0171-805 5555

Fax: 0171-805 5911 Cables: Illustrated London SE1

The Illustrated London News Group, a partnership of James B. Sherwood and Ferry and Port Holdings Ltd.

CAT



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270 0207
Fax: 0171 270 0618

Illustrated London News Group
20 Upper Ground
London
SE1 9PF

30 July 1996

Dear

Thankyou for your recent letter about Humphrey's Christmas activities.

Unfortunately as Humphrey is a civil servant he is bound by civil service rules and cannot talk to the press about his position. However, if you write to me with specific questions I could provide you with attributable answers.

We are hoping to have a Christmas picture of Humphrey under the tree this year, it would probably be issued in December and we could send you a copy nearer the time. It would not be possible to photograph him separately.

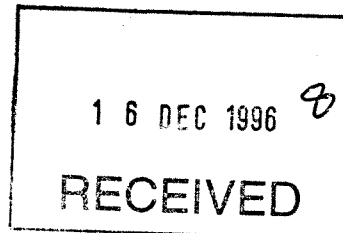
I look forward to receiving your questions.

Yours sincerely

COLLINGBOURNE
Fine Arts
Limited

Please deal!
T.

No.



Chief Press Officer,
Cabinet Office,
Room 046,
70, Whitehall,
London.
SW1A 2AS.

13th December 1996.

Dear

Humphrey, The Downing Street Cat.

Collingbourne Fine Arts publish limited edition prints and sell them in sets of four or six per edition by mail order through the national press.

We have been approached by the artist who painted 'Humphrey', with a view to producing a set of prints from her work on cats. We understand that the original picture of 'Humphrey' hangs in the Press Office in Downing Street and wish to enquire whether you would have any objections to it being reproduced in this way. The suggestion has obviously come from the artist as it would create a good story on which to launch her edition.

I would welcome your comments and the chance to make an appointment to view the original painting.

I await your response.

East End Cottages, Tangley, Andover, Hampshire SP11 0SA
Telephone and Facsimile: Andover (01264) 735438

Registered Office: 14 London Street, Andover, Hampshire SP10 2PA
Registered in England Number: 2902904



**Department for
Education and Employment**

Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
Westminster
London SW1P 3BT

Telephone 0171 925 5000
Fax 0171 925 6000
E-Mail info@dfee.gov.uk

TO:

THE PRESS OFFICE
CABINET OFFICE

FROM:

CHOICE & CAREERS DIVISION
DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT
AREA 1J, SANCTUARY BUILDINGS
GREAT SMITH ST
LONDON SW1P 3BT
TEL: 0171-925 5491
FAX: 0171-925 5225

PAGES
TO -
FOLLOW:

DATE: 18 December 1996

Re: Humphrey the Cat

I am a big fan of Humphrey's and collect articles and cuttings on him. You were good enough to send me the press release at the time of his last escapade.

I wondered if you could possibly let me have one of the Christmas cards with Humphrey on the front. I would be quite happy to pay for one, or for a pack, if necessary.

Yours hopefully

FILE

Notes to Editors

1 Humphrey is approximately 7 years old and has lived in the Cabinet Office since he was adopted as a stray in 1989.

2 He was christened 'Humphrey' after the fictitious Permanent Secretary in the BBC comedy 'Yes Minister'.

3 Humphrey was wrongly accused of the murder of robin chicks nesting near the Cabinet Room in 1994. Although a prime suspect, his alibi of ill health was accepted and he was found not guilty.

Issued by
Press Office
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

Tel 0171 270 0207



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

NEWS RELEASE

OPS 250/95

26 September 1995

HUMPHREY THE CAT FOUND ALIVE AND WELL

Humphrey the Cabinet Office cat has been found alive and well. After reading his obituary in this morning's papers, MOD policemen at the Royal Army Medical College, Westminster, realised that their recently acquired stray - PC Patrol Cat - was in fact the missing Humphrey.

Humphrey was last sighted at his home in the Cabinet Office in early June, he had been poorly for some months with a kidney infection and after three months absence he was sadly presumed dead.

Unknown to his former carers, Humphrey had wandered down to the Army Medical College at Millbank, where he was befriended by policemen on the gate. They looked after him very well, taking him to the vet, and even giving him a new name, PC Patrol Cat. It was only after seeing his photograph in today's papers that they realised their stray moggie was in fact the Cabinet Office cat. They contacted the Cabinet Office immediately and Humphrey was reunited with his old friends before lunch.

Ministers and staff at Downing Street and the Cabinet Office are delighted to have Humphrey back and he seems very pleased to be back home, Humphrey said:

"I have had a wonderful holiday at the Royal Army Medical College, but it is nice to be back and I am looking forward to the new Parliamentary session."



Update: 20 Feb 97 cat

CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

NEWS RELEASE

URGENT

OPERATIONAL NOTE: NOT FOR PUBLICATION
MEDIA INVITATION

OPS 249/95
26 September 1995

HUMPHREY RETURNS

Humphrey, the Cabinet Office cat has returned, hours after Officials had declared him missing in action. In fact the cat had been being looked after by staff at the Royal Army Medical College where he had wandered.

A photocall with Humphrey will take place at the Cabinet Office at 2.15pm today.

Media wishing to attend should arrive by 2.15pm at the Cabinet Office, 70 Whitehall.

Please bring Media Identification with you.

ACCREDITED JOURNALISTS ONLY WILL BE ADMITTED.

HUMPHREY

How old

Humphrey arrived at the Cabinet Office in October 1988 (two and a half years ago). Shortly after then he was estimated by a veterinary surgeon to be about a year old. At March/April 1992 that makes him about three and a half years old.

Approx Birthday - Oct/88 (Autumn 88).

How did we get him

The Accommodation Officer at 70 Whitehall found him as a stray and after keeping him at home for a few days brought him in to the office, having sought permission from the Deputy Establishment Officer some time beforehand to have a cat in the building. He did not cost the department anything to acquire him.

There have been Cabinet Office + Treasury cats in the past

Why the name Humphrey

A ballot was organised amongst all the staff in 70 Whitehall to give the new cat a name. There was a very good response to this with a wide variety of names suggested. Humphrey was the most popular, even though it only got five votes out of about 120. Sir Robin Butler entered the ballot but Humphrey was not his suggestion.

NB. Humphrey has not been knighted

Previous cats

There have been previous cats at the Cabinet Office but there has not been one for some time. The information on file is very patchy.

Official title

He is a member of the security + accommodation staff.

He has never been given an official title as such. He tends to "belong" to Accommodation Section, but spends nights and weekends with the Security Guards.

How much does he eat

He tends to eat little and often - no doubt because he knows he can always get food whenever he wants. He is always fed first thing in the morning, on average another two times during the day and usually by the Security Guards during the night. He gets through up to a tin of cat food a day. The cost is about £100 a year.

Is the cost of food met from public funds

Yes. Until the recent order with Pedigree Petfoods his cat food was always bought in supermarkets, with the money coming from the petty cash allowance held by Accommodation Section in 70 Whitehall.

Don't advertise brand.

Now low protein diet owing to kidney trouble.

Do we tender for cat food - No

No. The amount spent per year is comparatively small, but buy in bulk.

Why Pedigree Petfoods - No comment.

Despite being tried on just about every other brand of cat food he will only eat Whiskas. When he recently got left with only another brand he went for several days without eating. Even the BBC when filming him recently commented on whether he was ill. A few tins of Whiskas had to be purchased to last him until Pedigree Petfoods could deliver. The current order with Pedigree Petfoods is for 26 cases (24 cans per case),

made up of 2 cases of each of the 13 Whiskas varieties, and cost just over £200. This should last him over two years. The department is paying in full for this delivery.

Where does he sleep - Often seen in reception but does have quiet private quarters.

Basically anywhere that is warm and comfortable. He is usually asleep on one of the chairs in Accommodation Section first thing in the morning, but gets up as soon as someone arrives so he can be fed. He will sleep wherever he can - favourites are Accommodation Section and Security Division offices although the reception area at 70 Whitehall is quite popular lately. Nights and weekends are often spent in the Security Guard Room.

Does he have a girlfriend

There is no knowledge of him having a girlfriend. There are probably not very many cats in the Whitehall area though. Being neutered would he know what to do with a girlfriend anyway?

Breed

He is not a special breed. Just a black and white fluffy (sometimes quite scruffy) moggy.

Do we have a big rat problem - No.

He has caught numerous mice and the odd rat., especially in his early days. It is thought that at least some of these may have been caught outside of the building and brought in though. By a perhaps unfair comparison, Rentokil have been operating in 70 Whitehall for many years and have never caught anything. Their service for 70 Whitehall alone costs the department about £4,000 a year at current rates.

Positively vetted - Yes. and regularly debugged.

Although he has not been formally vetted, he surely falls in to the category of being safe to deal with classified work. He is a workaholic who spends nearly all his time at the office, has no criminal record, does not socialise a great deal or go to many parties and has not been involved in any sex or drugs scandals that we know of.

Accommodation Officer
Room 034
70 Whitehall

24 March 1992

Does he have any kittens?
- No He's been positively vetted.

- Has not committed any crimes that have been proven.
Not guilty of killing baby robins.



CABINET OFFICE
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Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
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27 June 1997

Dear

Thank you for your letter, dated 3rd May 1997, addressed to the Prime Minister, regarding Humphrey the Cabinet Office Cat.

Humphrey is the present official mouser for the Cabinet Office and Downing Street. Since the reign of Henry VIII there has been a history of Cabinet Office and Treasury cats. Predecessors in this post have included Wilberforce and Treasury Bill.

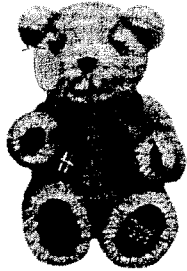
Humphrey is an ordinary black and white 'moggy', who is looked after by Cabinet Office staff. He spends most of the day sleeping in one of his many offices.

He has been accused of several serious crimes over the years but allegations have always, so far, been unfounded !

Unlike President Clinton's cat 'Socks', Humphrey is an office cat. Any changes within Government do not effect him as he is a Civil Servant. Since the beginning of May he has continued with his official duties.

I have enclosed a copy of the press release which announced his return to the office after a lengthy disappearance.

Yours sincerely



PRIME MINISTER'S
CORRESPONDENCE UNIT
Writer informed that letter
forwarded to the appropriate
Government Department
for a full reply

R715

3rd May 1997

53
CabOFF

Dear Mr and Mrs Blair

I am 11 years old I go to Stanburn middle school and I live in Stanmore. I am writing to ask you if you are going to keep the cat that catches the mice in Number 10 Downing Street because I have heard that neither of you like cats. Good luck with your new job as prime minister.

yours sincerely





CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
Fax: 0171 270 0618

27 June 1997

Dear

Thank you for your letter, dated 4th May 1997, regarding Humphrey the Cabinet Office Cat.

Humphrey is the present official mouser for the Cabinet Office and Downing Street. Since the reign of Henry VIII there has been a history of Cabinet Office and Treasury cats. Predecessors in this post have included Wilberforce and Treasury Bill.

Humphrey is an ordinary black and white 'moggy', who is looked after by Cabinet Office staff. He spends most of the day sleeping in one of his many offices.

He has been accused of several serious crimes over the years but allegations have always, so far, been unfounded !

Unlike President Clinton's cat 'Socks', Humphrey is an office cat. Any changes within Government do not effect him as he is a Civil Servant. Since the beginning of May he has continued with his official duties.

I have enclosed a copy of the press release which announced his return to the office after a lengthy disappearance.

Yours sincerely

4th May, 1997

The Official Keeper to
Humphrey, the Administrations Cat,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

Sir,

It was with great pleasure that my lady friend
and myself, both members of the Cat Protection League
on seeing a TV/Bite on News at Ten, 4th May.

If, Sir, you have time, perhaps you could inform
me what his Official Duties are; for example,
does he keep the mice away so that he may play?.

I am, Sir, with feline greeting
Your well wisher,



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
Fax: 0171 270 0618

27 June 1997

Dear

Thank you for your letter, dated 5th May 1997, regarding Humphrey the Cabinet Office Cat.

Humphrey is the present official mouser for the Cabinet Office and Downing Street. Since the reign of Henry VIII there has been a history of Cabinet Office and Treasury cats. Predecessors in this post have included Wilberforce and Treasury Bill.

Humphrey is an ordinary black and white 'moggy', who is looked after by Cabinet Office staff. He spends most of the day sleeping in one of his many offices.

He has been accused of several serious crimes over the years but allegations have always, so far, been unfounded !

Unlike President Clinton's cat Socks', Humphrey is an office cat. Any changes within Government do not effect him as he is a Civil Servant. Since the beginning of May he has continued with his official duties.

I have enclosed a copy of the press release which announced his return to the office after a lengthy disappearance.

Yours sincerely

Humphrey's Minder (Civil Service?)

10 Downing Street

London W1.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I understand through the Daily Telegraph that due to the Prime Minister's wife not liking cats, Humphrey may be evicted from his home. Rest assured he would be more than welcome to move in with my 2 felines where he will be loved, receive the maximum attention (should he desire it) and enjoy our Devonshire cream and yes — BEEF! Give it a thought, Humphrey!

Yours faithfully



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
Fax: 0171 270 0618

4 July 1997

Dear

Thank you for your letter, dated 7th May 1997, regarding Humphrey the Cabinet Office cat.

I am amazed by the amount of publicity Humphrey receives regularly from around the world. Your poem is just one of many we receive from magazines and news articles which are sent to us after publication.

Thank you very much for sending a copy of the magazine and the translation. He is still very happy and content in his present job and he will continue to carry out his duties as before.

Again I would like to say thank you very much for sending the article and translation.

Yours sincerely

Poemoj

Marjorie Boulton

La odiseado de Humfreo

Mi kantas katon kaj la kabineton.
 Klioa, Muzo, helpu la poeton!
 Freja, diino norda de amoro,
 aldonu vian helpon per favoro,
 kaj vian ĉaron katoj daŭre trenu!
 Sed ĉefe vi, egipta Basta, benu,
 majesta kat-diino, per konsilo,
 ke al Tamizo helpu fora Nilo;
 kun via korbo, de katidoj plena,
 kaj via *sistro*, min inspiru, bena;
 ronronu en orelon; helpu, Basta,
 por ke mi taŭgu por la temo vasta,
 ke pleba mi kantu per inda kreo
 pri la reveno hejmen de Humfreo.
 Humfreo servis al la brita ŝtato
 ĉe nigraporda deka, *Downing-Strato*;
 La ĉefministro brita loĝas tie,
 la kabinet' kunsidas, tradicie.
 Dejoris Humfreo, sekvis direktivojn,
 gardante dosierojn kaj arkivojn;
 kaj ĉiu dokumento peza-tema
 restis sekura kontraŭ mus' rongema.
 Nenia muso riskis sian felon,
 flarinte tiun bravan sentinelon;
 la ŝtatperfida besto timis tro
 la ŝtale serpajn ungojn de l' hero'!
 Ministro, eĉ la ĉefa, lin respektis,
 ĉar bela kaj tre digna li aspektis:
 fajre severa estis la rigardo
 de la okuloj gemaj dum ĉas-ardo;
 sed post karesoj ĉi okuloj samaj
 lumis radie pro la sentoj amaj,
 dum la voluptan verton li proponis
 kaj kun levita vosto li ronronis.
 La blanka brusto estis brile pura,
 ĉiu piedo ŝajnis blank-velura;
 kaj perlo ŝajnis la vizaĝ' en munto
 de la oreloj nigraj, nigra frunto.
 La brile nigra dorso, brusto blanka
 estis kostumo deca kaj senmanka
 por la akceptoj pompaj sub egido
 de l' ŝtato, aŭ por kabinet-kunsido,
 ĉar etiket' al kato ne ordonas
 ke la kravatton krome ĝi bezonas.
 Ĉiu lin fidis: ĉiam li sekretis,
 kaj kion ajn li aŭdis, li diskretis;
 se iam kulpis li pri eta liko,
 ne temis pri la brita politiko.
 Sed kiu, en ĉi peka mond' subluna,
 certadas, kontraŭ kalumni' imuna?
 Iam disflugis klaĉ' pri lia rolo
 en murd' de idoj de la rubekolo
 ĝardena, dum li tre malsana kuŝis
 kaj nek birdidojn nek teleron tuŝis;
 sed oni, kontraŭ falso ruza, vulpa,
 oficiale diris lin senkulpa.
 Aliaj flustroj kuris tra amasoj
 pri park' de Sankt-Jakobo kaj anasoj;

tamen Humfreo havis alibion
 kiu refutis tiun kalumnion.
 Nobla Humfreo, digna kaj lojala,
 ne estis ĉiam kat' oficiala:
 iam, senhejma, senlabora kato,
 vagadis li, sovaĝa sur la strato;
 sed li esperis kaj li entreprenis
 ĝis en Numero Dek li ekpostenis.
 Sed, unu tagon, ekdiskuris bru' -
 nobla Humfreo ne ĉeestis plu.
 Vanis vokad', serĉado ne sukcesis;
 ministraj manoj vakon ekkaresis.
 Oni atendis, provizore planis;
 dum tri monatoj atendado vanis.
 Ĉu ĉesis li per akcident' trafika?
 Fuĝis por morti en solec' stoika?
 Ĉu li ostaĝis ĉe ribela kelto?
 Ĉu iu ŝtelis lin pro silka pelto?
 Fine necesis la dekret' finvorta,
 Klara deklar': Humfreo estas morta.
 Septembre venis la sezon' de tristo:
 lamentis oficistoj kaj ministroj;
 iu demandis dum la larmoflus'
 ĉu mendi elĝion de *Ted Hughes*?
 Apude ploris en la park' driadoj;
 ploris la katoj de la ambasadoj:
 siamaj, rusaj-bluj kaj havanaj,
 birmaj kaj turkaj, persaj (nun iranaj),
 norvega kun la peltito kontraŭ-frosta,
 japana kato ĉarma sed etvosta...
 leonaj kuzoj en *Trafalgar-Placo*
 muĝis el ŝton', „Ripozu li en paco!”
 kaj eĉ la kimraj hundoj de l' Reĝino
 bojis malĝoje pro felisa fino.
 La ĉefministro, per suspir' amara,
 veis pri nobla kato nur sep-jara.
 „Ho, frida frostoj jam en la aŭtun'!
 Ho, Basta, Freja, ĉu vi helpas nun?
 Kion aŭguras tiu ĉi pereoj,
 la morto, eĉ sen rito, de Humfreo?
 El siaj vivoj perdis li la naŭan;
 ni perdis lin, sen-ĉerkan, -adiaŭan.”
 Sed, foje, nia plej tenebra horo
 signalas ekrugiĝon de l' aŭroro.
 Armeo-kuracista kolegio
 estis la lok', el kiu sunradio
 de *Millbank* nun al *Downing-Strat'*
 aŭroris,
 ĉar policianoj ĉe la pord' dejoris,
 kaj iu legis ion en ĵurnalo
 pri la heroo kaj pri la fatalo,
 en *Times* la nekrologon post pereoj
 de l' kabineta kato, de Humfreo.
 Antaŭ fotoj iu maltrankvilas:
 „Al nia Patrol-Kato li similas!”
 Antaŭ la bildo krias nun alia:
 „Ĝi tre, jes, tro, similas al la nia!”
 Kaj konsternite diras la serĝento,

„Ni nepre tuj kontrolu pri idento!”
 - ĉar antaŭ tri monatoj kat' perdita
 aperis ĉe la pordo, inkognita,
 laca, malsata, tamen bela, pura;
 la policianoj tenis lin sekura,
 nomis lin Policano Patrol-Kato,
 sensciaj pri la perd' en *Downing-Strato*.
 „Humfreo!” la alvoko testa sonis.
 La kat' alkuris kaj li tuj ronronis.
 Fulme ekbrulis telefona drato
 inter la kolegi' kaj *Downing-Strato*,
 kaj bonaj policianoj hejmen portis
 la funebritan, kiu ja ne mortis,
 hejmen finfine! Kiel Odiseo,
 bela kaj brilokula, jen Humfreo;
 la kabinetoj kaj stabanoj ĝojis;
 la hundoj de l' Reĝino laŭte bojis;
 en la solena, serioza domo
 nun ridis kaj ĝojkriis ĉiu homo;
John Major post bonvena ĉirkaŭbrako
 forbrosis multajn harojn de la jako;
 driadoj en la parko, en Tamizo
 najadoj, kantis feste al la brizo;
 kaj fremdaj katoj en la ambasadoj
 rekantis plenniaŭe al najadoj;
 ĉie, pro rehejmiĝo de l' hero',
 la ve-ho-veoj iĝis ho-hej-ho!
 eĉ la leonoj en *Trafalgar-Placo*
 ĉantis celebre pri kompakta graco.
 Humfreo, dum la ĝoja maladiaŭ,
 salutis elokvente, „Miaŭ, miaŭ!”
 dum dejorant' vortigis la detalojn,
 por nove reinformi la ĵurnalojn
 radio tra la tuta land' bultenis:
 Humfreo vivas, sanas kaj revenis.
 Jen io bona; vere, ne multfoje
 tiel malĝojon ni nuligas ĝoje;
 kaj ne tre ofte nia kor-kvieto
 rezultas de afer' de kabinetoj;
 do, decas festi, kante aŭ ronrone,
 se io post malbono iras bone.

Klarigoj:

sistro: simpla muzikilo egipta.
10 Downing Street, Londono: sidejo de la
 ĉefministro kaj kunvenejo de la kabi-
 neto.
Ted Hughes: fama angla poeto, la „poeto
 laureata” kiu devas foje verki pri gravaj
 ŝtataj eventoj.
 (Notu, ke la diplomataj katoj ĉiuj aludas
 realajn katrasojn.)
Trafalgar-Placo: tre konata placo en
 Londono, kun leonaj statuoj grandegaj.
Millbank: grava strato en Londono.
Times: [tajmz], „tempoj” en la senco de „nia
 epoko”, fama brita ĵurnalo.
John Major: la brita ĉefministro.

Kato de la ŝtato

Fine de septembro 1995, nigra kaj blanka kato, ĉarma sed ne rasa, rolis digne en britaj ĵurnaloj, radio kaj televido. Humfreo (angle, Humphrey [Hamfri] – same kiel ĉe d-ro Tonkin) estas la kato, oficiala kontraŭmusa gardisto, de n-ro 10, Downing-Strato en Londono, la oficiala rezidejo de la brita ĉefministro kaj ejo por kabinetaj kunsidoj kaj similaj eventoj.

Sen voĉdonrajto

Humphrey rolas kiel ŝtata oficisto, ne kiel registarano, do restos en sia posteno eĉ se la registaro ŝanĝiĝos. Li iam estis senhejma, sed post adoptiĝo en 10, Downing-Strato vivadis prestiĝe kaj prospere; li nun estas 7-jara. Li rajtas ĉeesti kabinetajn kunsidojn, kiam li emas, sed nur kiel observanto sen voĉdon-rajto.

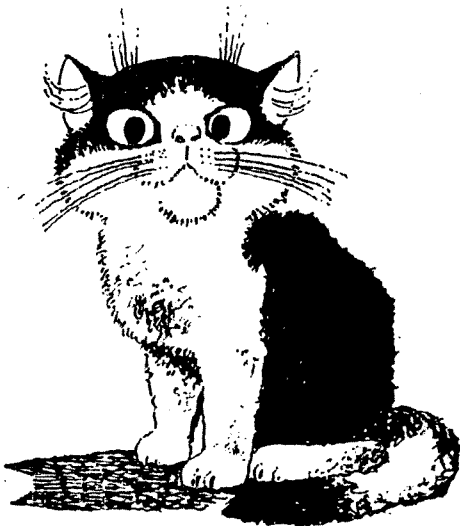
La kato estas amata, kaj kiam li malaperis en julio, multaj malĝojis; ĉar katoj ofte iom ekskursas kaj revenas, oni kun espero atendadis, ĝis la 26-a de septembro, kiam oni finfine anoncis oficiale, ke oni devas supozi lin morta. Raporto aperis en la prestiĝa ĵurnalo *The Times* [Tajmz], „La tempoj” en la senco de „la epoko”) kun bona portreto de Humfreo.

Sed tiun portreton vidis policanoj ĉe la Armea Kuracista Kolegio en Millbank, strato iom proksima al Downing-Strato, kaj tiuj homoj (ja trejnitaj al detala observemo) rimarkis la similecon al kato, kiu en julio vizitis la kolegion, ŝajne senhejma; la policanoj adoptis lin, nutris kaj prizorgis lin tre bone, kaj donis al li la honoran titolon de Policano Patrol-Kato.

Dum preskaŭ tri monatoj tiu kato loĝadis kun ili, amata kaj kontenta, montrante la kutiman talenton de katoj bone hejmigi sin kaj subigi homojn al siaj preferoj ... Kiam iu alvokis „Humfreo!” la kato tuj alkuris, forte ronronante kaj ekscitite. Laŭ unu ĵurnala versio, estis kaporalo en la Armea Medicina Korpuso, kiu unue rimarkis la similecon kaj montris la bildon al la policanoj.

Iu telefonis al la Kabineta Oficejo, kaj samtage Humfreo estis portita al sia vera hejmo kaj reprenis siajn oficialajn devojn.

Meze de la suferoj en la mondo kaj la malbelaĵoj de politiko, tiu amuzo kaj iom kortuŝa incidento donis temon por ridetoj, kaj la britaj ĵurnaloj, radio kaj televido ĉarme raportis pri la reveno de Humfreo. Aperis pri la te-



mo pluraj karikaturaj, ofte kun iom malronronema politika implico, almenaŭ unu poemo, diversaj komentoj.

Diplomatia noto

Potenca firmo, kiu vendas nutr-aĵojn por katoj, invitis Humfreon rekomendi iliajn varojn reklame, sed el Downing-Strato venis tuja rifuzo; ne estus digne. Sed *The Times* presigis diplomatian noton de Socks ([Soks] – „ŝtrumpetoj”), la Unua Kato de Usono, kato de la prezidanto: „Mi scias, ke ĉiuj hejmbestoj en Usono, unuece kun mi, sendas plej bonajn dezirojn al Humfreo kaj la familio Major je ĉi tiu feliĉa tago.” La oficiala mesaĝo de Humfreo tekstis: „Mi pasigis mirindan libertempon ĉe la Armea Kuracista Kolegio, sed estas agrable esti hejme denove, kaj mi kun plezuro atendas la novan parlamentan sesion.”

La historio inspiris min provi poezian ĝenron, kiun mi neniam antaŭe provis en Esperanto: la ŝerc-epopeon uzantan klasikajn tradiciojn.*

(kun danko al la brita Kabineta Oficejo, kies stabano bonhumore helpis!)

Viajn kontribuojn por la rubriko „Ŝerco & satiro” sendu al
Stefan Maul
Pferseer Str. 15
D-86150 Augsburg
Germanio
Elekt-ronka adreso:
surd.mut.gargar en intermalnet

* La epopeo „La odiseado de Humfreo” aperis en MONATO, 1996/4, p. 28.

Ĵurnalista trejnado

Mia egipta amikino, kiam ŝi laboris en japana televida ĵurnalejo en Kairo, renkontis junan japanan studenton de ĵurnalismo. Li rakontis al ŝi pri sia komenco en Egipto.

Li alvenis, hazarde, unu semajnon antaŭ la murdo al la egipta prezidanto Anwar [Anŭar] Sadat. Kiam li iris al Egipto, li tute ne parolis araban lingvon, kaj apenaŭ la anglan. Do antaŭ la komenco de la lernejoj kursoj, li multe rigardis televidon por klopodi alkutimiĝi al la lingvo.

Sed, subite la televidan elsendon oni interrompis, kaj anstataŭe iu voĉlegis versojn el Korano. Li tute ne komprenis. „Strange! Kio okazas?”

Li provis alian frekvencon. Ankaŭ tie aŭdeblis nur Korano. En ĉiu frekvenco estis same. „Diable, ĉu la aparato misfunkcias?!” li pensis. „Kiel oni vokas ripariston en Egipto?”

Li enŝaltis radion. Viraj voĉoj parolis, paroladis. Li nenion komprenis, sed ofte li aŭdis la nomon „Sadat”. Li pensis, „Ho, tiu ‚Sadat’ devas esti la nomo de la elsendejo – la egipta ekvivalento de brita BBC aŭ japana NHK.”

Fine, tri tagojn poste, pere de iu renkontito, li eksciis ke oni mortpafis prezidanton Sadat en Kairo.

„Ho, kia bonega ĵurnalisto mi estas!” pensis la studento. „Ĉi tie mi sidas nur 500 metrojn for de la loko kie oni mortpafas la prezidanton, kaj mi estas la lasta persono en la mondo, kiu ekscias pri tio!”

Joel BROZOVSKY

Muzik-anekdoto

Komponisto Eugene d’Albert edziĝis kvin fojojn. Al sia tria edziĝo li invitis kolegon Johannes Brahms, sed tiu respondis: „Mi tre bedaŭras, ke mi ne povas veni al via tria edziĝo, sed mi faros ĉion eblan por povi ĉeesti la kvaran.”

Faktoj nesciindaj

- Homo palpebrumas dum unu tago 25 000 fojojn.
- La biblio ne mencias katojn.
- Pli ol 50 % de ĉiuj beboj naskiĝas antaŭ la matenmanĝa horo.
- Ĉiu usonano jare konsumas 20 tunojn da mineraloj.

anonceto

Telefonkartojn nur neuzitajn kolektas V. H. en S. Nepre ne sendu uzitajn, ĉar kion utilis al mi kartoj, per kiuj mi ne povus telefoni?

Prose translation of the Esperanto mock-epic poem about Humphrey,
the Cabinet Office Cat.

The Odyssey of Humphrey.

I sing of a cat and the Cabinet. Clio, Muse, help the poet!
Freya, northern goddess of love, add your help by your favour,
and may cats continue to draw your chariot! But chiefly do thou
bless, Egyptian Bast, majestic cat-goddess, with your counsel, that
the distant Nile may aid the Thames. Inspire me, blessing, with
your sistrum, and your basket full of kittens; purr in my ear;
help me, Bast, that I may be worthy of the mighty theme, and I,
plebeian, sing with worthy creation of the homecoming of Humphrey.

Humphrey served the British State at black-door'd 10, Downing
Street; the British Prime Minister dwells there, and, traditionally,
the Cabinet meets. Humphrey was on duty, followed his instructions,
guarded the files and archives; and every document, with weighty theme,
remained safe from the gnawing mouse. No mouse risked its hide,
smelling that brave sentinel; the treasonous beast feared too much
the steely sickle claws of the hero! Ministers, even the Prime Minister,
respected him, for he looked beautiful and very dignified. Fiery
stern was his glance from gem-like eyes during the ardour of the chase;
but, after stroking, those same eyes shone radiantly with loving
feelings, when he offered the voluptuous top of his head, and purred
with lifted tail. His white chest was brilliantly clean; each paw
seemed white-velvety; and his face seemed a pearl in the mount of
the black ears and black forehead. The brightly black back, the
white chest, were a decent costume, lacking nothing, for solemn receptions
under the aegis of the state, or for a Cabinet meeting, for etiquette
does not also prescribe to a cat that it needs a tie as well.
Everyone trusted him; he always kept secrets, and whatever he heard,
he was discreet. If he was ever at fault for a little leak - it was
not a matter of British politics.

But, who, in this sinful world beneath the moon, can be certain
of being immune from calumny? At one time some gossip flew about
as to his part in the murder of the robin's children in the garden,
when he lay very ill, and touched neither baby birds nor his plate.
But against the cunning, foxy falsehood he was officially declared
not guilty. Other whispers ran among the crowds about St James's Park
and ducks; however, Humphrey had an alibi which refuted this calumny.

Noble Humphrey, dignified and loyal, had not always been an
official cat; once, a homeless, unemployed cat, he had wandered wild
upon the street; but he was hopeful and enterprising, until he
started his job at Number Ten.

But, one day, it began to be noised abroad, that noble Humphrey was no longer there. Calling was in vain, seeking was unsuccessful; ministerial hands stroked vacancy. They waited, made provisional plans; the waiting for three months was in vain. Has he come to an end through a traffic accident? Flew to die in stoical solitude? Was he a hostage with some rebel Celt? Had someone stolen him for his silky pelt? At last the last-word decree was necessary, a clear declaration: Humphrey was dead. In September came the season of sorrows: the officials and ministers lamented; someone asked during the tide of tears, ought we to order an elegy from Ted Hughes? Nearby, the Dryads in the Park wept, and the cats in the Embassies: Siamese, Russian Blue and Havana, Burmese and Turkish, Persian (now Iranian), Norwegian with the anti-frost pelt, the Japanese cat charming but small-tailed...

(Note: these are all real breeds of pedigree cat.)

The lion cousins in Trafalgar-Square roared in stone, "May he rest in peace!" and even the corgis of the Queen barked sadly about the feline end. The Prime Minister, with a bitter sigh, cried woe about a noble cat, only seven years old.

"O, cold frost already in the autumn! O Bast and Fræya, will you help now? Of what is this an omen, this perishing, this death, even without a rite, of Humphrey? Of his lives he has lost the ninth; we have lost him, uncoffined, unfaREWELLED."

But, sometimes, our darkest hour gives a signal for the first reddening of dawn. An army-doctors' college was the place from which the sunny ray dawned now from Millbank to Downing Street, for policemen were on duty at the gate, and someone read something in a paper about the hero and the fatality, the obituary in The Times after the perishing of the Cabinet cat, Humphrey. Someone was unquiet before a photograph: "He looks like our Patrol-Cat!" Before the picture another now exclaims, "Yes, it is, it is too much, like ours!" And, in consternation, the sergeant said, "We must certainly check his identity!" - For, three months before, a lost cat had appeared incognito at the door, tired, hungry, but handsome and clean; the policemen had kept it safe and named it P.C. Patrol Cat, not knowing about the loss in Downing Street. "Humphrey!" came the testing call. The cat ran up and purred at once. The telephone wire burned like lightning between the college and Downing Street, and good policemen carried home the one mourned for, who had not died.

Home at last! Like Odysseus, beautiful and bright-eyed, behold, Humphrey; the Cabinet and staff rejoiced, the Queen's dogs barked joyously; in that solemn and serious house, now every person laughed and gave a cry of joy. John Major, after a welcoming embrace, brushed a lot of hairs off his jacket; the Dryads in the park, and the Naiads in the Thames, sang in celebration to the breeze; the foreign cats in the

Embassies sang back in full miaow to the Naiads; everywhere, because of the hero's homecoming, the alas-alases became hey-ho-hey-ho! Even the lions in Trafalgar Square chanted in celebration of compassionate grace. Humphrey, during the joyful unfarewell, greeted eloquently with "Miaow, miaow!" while someone on duty put the details into words to give fresh information to the Press. The radio throughout the land sent out bulletins: Humphrey is alive, is well and has come back.

Here is something good; indeed, not often do we cancel sorrow thus joyfully; and not very often does our peace at heart result from a Cabinet matter; so, it is becoming to celebrate, with song or purring, when after evil something goes well.

Public Relations Officer responsible
for Humphrey the Cat,
10 Downing Street
London
SW 1A 2AA

Dear Sir,

I am not sure to whom I ought to write, so hope you can excuse a slightly off-beat mode of address.

Some months ago, someone at 10 Downing Street very kindly let me have a press release about Humphrey and his famous disappearance and return.

A very minor writer in English, mostly of simple literary criticism, I also write in Esperanto, and I wrote a poem about Humphrey which I am told is the first poem in Esperanto in the pleasant mock-epic genre like Pope's The Rape of the Lock: Esperanto has a wide range of poetry, but no-one had tried that particular type before. The Odyssey of Humphrey has been very well received, and I recited it at the World Esperanto Congress in Prague last July. (Nearly 3000 people attended the Congress, though my audience, naturally, was not that size.) Owing to some editorial mishap, my prose report on the story appeared later, instead of, as intended, earlier. I am enclosing a photocopy of that with Monato's cartoonist's attempt at Humphrey's portrait, rather charming, I think. As you see from a note at the bottom, I thanked a member of the Cabinet Office staff, who kindly helped me.

No doubt there is a small archive about the Cabinet Office cats, and I was able to beg for you an extra copy of the actual magazine for filing. I hope it may cause a bit of pleasure and amusement. I have also made a translation into English prose, keeping as far as I can the mock-epic style, though I could not manage verse as well.

You may wonder why I have sent this to 10 Downing Street so long after publication. It took me some time to acquire the copy, and so on, and later I thought that there would be an election soon and possibly it could be my congratulatory gift to the new Prime Minister, about whose victory I now am, indeed, delighted; I feel new hope at last. Indeed, the last line of the poem now has a greater significance than it had when I wrote it!

Please excuse some imperfections in my typing; I am 73 today, and my hands do not always do exactly what I wish; furthermore, my typewriter is like me somewhat past its best.

I realise that a literary joke, even a substantial one, about the Cabinet Office cat, is not exactly a high priority at what must be an extremely and exhaustingly busy time for everyone from the Prime Minister downwards; I have no idea when anybody will have time to look at it; but I hope that eventually it may be a bit of fun and diversion. I would love to have any later press releases about Humphrey; I do hope he is happy with the new régime. I am very confident that Mr Blair and his family would never be other than kind to an animal. In all fairness, trivial though my effort is, it is also a tiny piece of literary history in a valuable cultural language, as explained above.

It may be sensible to add that I expect to be away from home till May 18th.

Yours truly, with good wishes.



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270 1272
Fax: 0171 270 0618

18 October 1995

Dear

Thank you for your letter on the return of Humphrey, the Cabinet Office cat.

Although Humphrey is sympathetic to the plight of all cats, he was a stray once himself. He is not in a position to endorse any organisations or charities.

Humphrey is a civil service cat and as such cannot use his official position to raise funds or to market cat products.

However, he does point out, wherever possible, that he has always been well looked after by the civil service and other owners should look after their cats equally well.

Humphrey would personally like to thank you for the lovely poem and all the effort you put into it.

Thank you again for your interest and I enclose a photograph of Humphrey.

Yours sincerely

A A O

Enc

Poem

For Humphrey

Sept. 1995.

Follows I.T.V. & B.B.C.

National News

It had been Reported that the
cat had been missing for a
period and he had just
Returned to Darwin St.

"I'm the Rag to Rags Cat
I've hours of Fame I've walked
and listened and listened to ALL the Tacts

I'm a Diplomatic Cat
who hasn't earned Fame by just
growing Fat
I've graced the Services for a while,
'Done Duty for M.H. Major
Now, My latest News
Might Even up-Stage Him!"

by:



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
Fax: 0171 270 0618

27 June 1997

Dear

Thank you for your letter, dated 12th May 1997, regarding Humphrey the Cabinet Office cat.

Your letter states various publicity in which, you feel, Humphrey could be involved in. As from our previous correspondence with you, Humphrey is a Civil Servant and under our code he can not use his official position to raise publicity for himself.

Thank you for your new poem and all the effort in which was placed into it.

I am enclosing a photograph, as requested. This was taken the day he returned to the office after his long disappearance.

Yours sincerely

"Humphrey" - Again.

I'M in The News Again

In Between Boxes
and Ministerial Changes

I'M as Famous
as ever I was Before
Still existing on staying
Here on The 1-FLOOR,
outside The NO. 10 Door

I won't move why
should I?

This is where I wish to
be seen,

PROVING once and For ALL,
The cat can look
at The Queen.

May
(c) 1997

please May 9
Have Another photograph?
Can Humphrey be used in MY STORY?

12.5.97.

Cabinet Office

Dear Sir / Madam,

Firstly, I'm Delighted
by "New Labour", although I'm
of the Third generation.

I Adore Humphrey
and I feel sure that Mr. Blair
May have a New Role for Him.

please May he perhaps appear in
The Lottery?

or May he have His own
Personal Writing Paper or
Cards for Every occasion.

I really think by this time
He should have His own
Special Decoration.

I enclose Previous Correspondence.

Sincerely,

♠ Furry Tale Indeed!

This was the moment when Cherie Blair proved to the world that she is certainly no Humphrey-hater and is quite happy to share her abode with the fluffy feline. But why the big fuss? As we all know

Humphrey does *not* live in Downing Street and probably never will, so the chances of the two ever meeting again are virtually nil! Humphrey is still living in contented bliss on his little cushion in the Press Office at 70 Whitehall. When a cat is this spoilt why would he need to go and see the Prime Minister? Why should he even care who's taken over at No10?

If the media still wants to pretend that Humphrey lives at No10 when really they know the truth, then so be it - is it that the truth wouldn't make such an interesting story?



“Humphrey, as a Civil Servant, Does Not Give Media Interviews...”

Being Duty Press Officer always involves an early start as the newspaper cuttings are faxed through to your home first thing in the morning. You can also sometimes find yourself waiting for the newsagents to open! The weekend after the election was no exception!

JOURNALISTS contact the Duty Press Officer through a pager. My first bleep that morning was at about 7.15am and was a request from Sky TV for an interview with Humphrey the cat about the new Administration. After politely explaining that the cat cannot actually speak and, as a civil servant, does not give media interviews, I listened to the early morning news bulletins on the radio and TV.

THROUGHOUT the morning, the bleeper went off at increasingly regular intervals - questions about the severance pay rules

The Trials and Tribulations of a Duty Press Officer

for MPs leaving the House of Commons, pay rates for the new Ministers, talking to Downing Street about the new Ministerial line up and answering queries from lobby journalists puzzled about the appointment (or not) of Derek Foster!

DEALING with a media enquiry often means interrupting a senior official's weekend. As Duty Press Officer you always hope that the person with the answer will be instantly available!

IF you ever wondered who watched the lunchtime news and political programmes at the weekend, you can be sure that duty press officers across Whitehall are among them!

During the chaos of that now famous Bank Holiday weekend, people from all over the Department were frantically running around getting things in order for the incoming Government. Apparently, life was no easier for some of those at home as one Duty Press Officer can tell us...

LATER in the afternoon, one of our new Ministers called me to give me his contact numbers so that I could reach him if I received interview requests for him about his new job. By the early evening news I had dealt with over 35 different enquiries and I was ready for a rest. Only two more news bulletins to go and I finally got to bed - only to be woken by the dreaded bleeper telling me that the Today programme needed to speak to me....



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
Fax: 0171 270 0618

27 June 1997

Dear Captain Flint and Starry Night,

Thank you for your letter, undated, regarding Humphrey the Cabinet Office cat.

Humphrey is the present official mouser for the Cabinet Office and Downing Street. Since the reign of Henry VIII there has been a history of Cabinet Office and Treasury cats. Predecessors in this post have included Wilberforce and Treasury Bill.

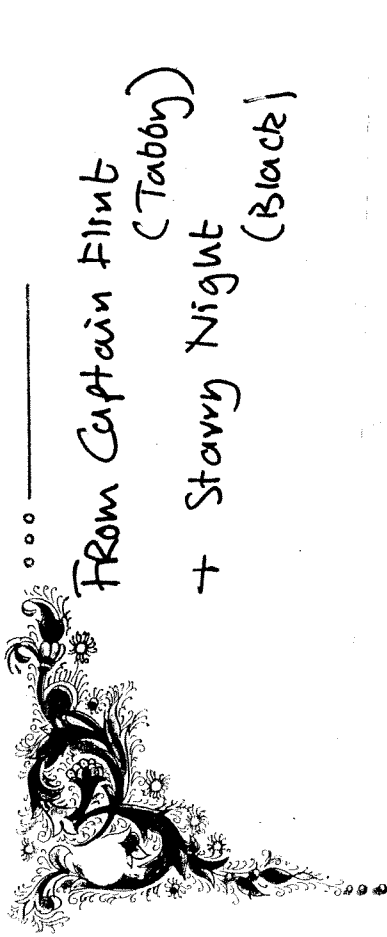
Humphrey is an ordinary black and white 'moggy', who is looked after by Cabinet Office staff. He spends most of the day sleeping in one of his many offices.

He has been accused of several serious crimes over the years but allegations have always, so far, been unfounded !

Unlike President Clinton's cat 'Socks', Humphrey is an office cat. Any changes within Government do not effect him as he is a Civil Servant. Since the beginning of May he has continued with his official duties.

I have enclosed a copy of the press release which announced his return to the office after a lengthy disappearance.

Yours sincerely



From Captain Flint
(Tabby)
+ Starry Night
(Black)

Dear Humphrey.

We are alarmed to see in today's Times Diary that your future has a precarious look to it. If the worst comes to the worst - we can offer excellent accommodation here in Wales. (see enclosed).

Our 'people' are good
One Nelson Torres and one
Franking that nice, cosy



Mr Clarke whose hospitality we
know you enjoyed over at No 11.

Kind regards - let us
know if we can help out.
Signed.

Captain Flint
& Starry Night.

P.S. Have you been 'down' - as they
say - we have + found no
!!! - effects at all.



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
Fax: 0171 270 0618

27 June 1997

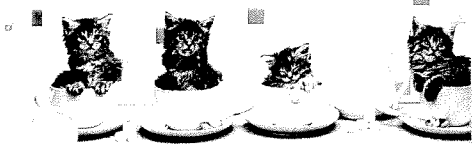
Dear

Thank you for your letter regarding Humphrey the Cabinet Office cat.

He would like you to know he is very happy in his present job and he will continue to carry out his duties as before.

He would like to thank you all for your good wishes.

Yours sincerely



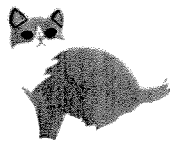
DEAR HUMPHREY.

I've JUST HEARD THAT
YOU WILL BE STAYING ON AT NO 10.

I DO HOPE YOU WILL BE VERY HAPPY
WITH THE NEW LADY AND GENTLEMAN
AND CHILDREN THAT ARE COMING TO
LIVE WITH YOU.

I AM SURE YOU WILL LOOK AFTER THEM
WELL.

LOTS OF LOVE
FROM "BUCKLE".





CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
Fax: 0171 270 0618

Ardath Greeting Cards

United States of America

27 June 1997

To all staff at Ardath Greeting Cards,

Thank you for your card sent to Humphrey the Cabinet Office cat.

He would like you to know he is very happy in his present job and he will continue to carry out his duties as before.

He would like to thank you all for your good wishes.

Yours sincerely

ARDATH GREETING CARDS

CALIFORNIA 92659 USA



HANG IN THERE

THE BEST IS YET
TO COME!

Sincerely,

Arddth Greeting
Cards
and Staff



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
Fax: 0171 270 0618

27 June 1997

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your letter, dated 16th May 1997, regarding Humphrey the Cabinet Office cat.

I am enclosing a photograph of Humphrey from the day he returned to the office after a long disappearance, I have also included a copy of the press release announcing his return.

At present, we do not hold photographs of Humphrey of his own, however, if you would like to contact the Press Association they should be able to assist you.

They can be contacted at the following address:

PA News Limited
PA NewsCentre
292 Vauxhall Bridge Road
London SW1V 1AE

Yours sincerely

16th May 1997

Dear Sir,

Could you please tell me whether Humphrey, (*The Chief Mouser*) has any photos available to purchase?

I think he's lovely!!!

File 2/12.

Information Division

30 June 1997
From:

Humphrey Photographs

Since Humphrey's hand over a couple of months ago we have received (amongst other things) a lot of requests for photographs of the said cat.

I know you ordered some pictures of him in the past and we definitely need some more. Would I be right in thinking that you had a budget to deal with Humphrey bits?

Can you please let me know as soon as you can what the procedure will be.

Many thanks!

Press Office, Support Unit, Room 046, 70 Whitehall.



File .
2/12 .

IFD(OS) - Accommodation Services

From:
Date: 30 June 1997
Tel: 210 0505

Press Office

HUMPHREY PHOTOGRAPHS

Thank you for your minute of today's date.

2. I have to admit that I was not aware of any change of responsibility for Humphrey correspondence. only his feeding. As far as I was concerned his correspondence was still being dealt with by . If this is not the case perhaps you could let me know and confirm that is content with the revised arrangements.
3. That said, I do have budgetary responsibilities for Humphrey's activities. Last time we had photographs produced, they were arranged by in your office and I paid the bill. I would, however, prefer not to do anything until the above matter is resolved.

Accommodation Services Manager

From:
Date: 30 June 1997
Tel: 270 0436

Accommodation Services Manager

Humphrey Photographs

Further to your minute of the above date this is to let you know Humphrey's situation at the moment.

Although we have been dealing with all Humphreys post over the past few months after your note I got in touch with [redacted] and she is content to carry on with replies to all Humphrey's 'fan mail' as before. However we have agreed to take on the some of the letters in the event of overflow or [redacted] absence. If you hold any photographs of Humphrey we would appreciate a small amount for this reason, although shall be ordering more photographs in the future for the use of the media.

Many thanks

Press Office



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
Fax: 0171 270 0618

“Floppy Ollie”

Dear Floppy Ollie,

I have received a letter from your friend Rusty who asked if a letter could be sent to you regarding Humphrey the Cabinet Office Cat.

Humphrey is the present official mouser for the Cabinet Office and Downing Street. Since the reign of Henry VIII there has been a history of Cabinet Office and Treasury cats. Predecessors in this post have included Wilberforce and Treasury Bill.

Humphrey is an ordinary black and white 'moggy', who is looked after by Cabinet Office staff. He spends most of the day sleeping in one of his many offices.

He has been accused of several serious crimes over the years but allegations have always, so far, been unfounded ! Well almost.

Unlike President Clinton's cat 'Socks', Humphrey is an office cat. Any changes within Government do not effect him as he is a Civil Servant. Since the beginning of May he has continued with his official duties.

I have enclosed a copy of the press release which announced his return to the office after a lengthy disappearance.

Yours sincerely



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
Fax: 0171 270 0618

2/12

“Rusty”

30 July 1997

Dear Rusty,

Thank you for the letter, dated 11 July 1997 and photograph sent to Humphrey the Cabinet Office Cat.

He will be sending a letter to your friend Floppy Ollie, as requested.

The book you mentioned in your letter was written by a member of the public who had no connection with the Civil Service or the Cabinet Office and therefore I am afraid I am unable to help you with your query.

Humphrey hopes that all went well at the funeral and would like to wish you the best for the future.

Yours sincerely

Friday 11th July 1997

Dear Humphrey,

Hi it's me again, Rusty. Sorry it has taken me awhile to write but I've been helping my human with her work.

My human is a bit upset at the moment because her Hampster died yesterday, he was called Maximillion and also he was my friend.

I hear that you have written a book called "A Day In A Life Of Humphrey" I was wondering if you could give me some tips on getting work published so I can pass on the information to my human because she's into writing short stories and that's the only thing I don't help her with. I would be very catful if you could help.

Also I have enclosed a photo of me, seeing as you sent me one of you. I'll have to close now because I am going to attend Maxi's funeral.

Hope to hear from you soon,

Bye for meow



Rusty

P.s Could you send a letter to my friend Floppy Ollie his address is



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
Fax: 0171 270 0618

30 July 1997

Dear

Thank you for your post card addressed to Humphrey the Cabinet Office Cat.

Humphrey receives letters and post cards from all over the world. Your card from Prague, is just one of many he receives, almost daily.

Thank you for thinking of him during your holiday, best wishes

If undelivered, please return to

PRAHA
KARLŮV MOST A STARE MĚ

CESKÁ REPUBLIKA



Dear Humphrey,



NOT POSTED

AIR MAIL

POST OFFICE
PRAGUE 21

As one of the most powerful cats in the world, with your paws always padding the corridors of power regardless of the electoral fortunes of mere humans, I felt you at least deserved a postcard.

I am in Prague at the moment, and I have yet to see any cats. Birds, on the other hand, are bountiful, as the picture overlay illustrates, and so you might perhaps consider this beautiful city as a future holiday retreat. After you've changed the *scams on quarantine, of course.*

From

, YOUR GREATEST FAN!

© LINCOLN & HAUNER

HUMPHREY THE CAT

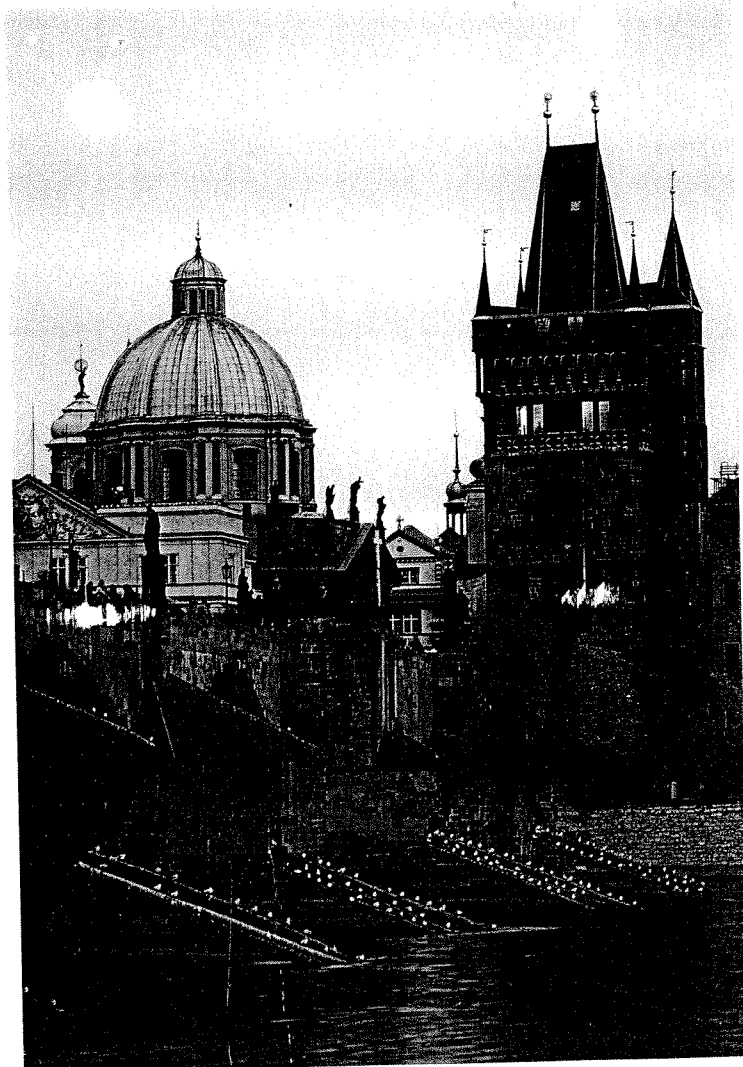
10

LONDON

ENGLAND



FOTO: MILAN KINCL



2/12



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
Fax: 0171 270 0618

Publicity Director
Arrow
Random House
20 Vauxhall Bridge Road
London SW1V 2AS

30 July 1997

Dear

Thank you for the letter, dated 17 July 1997, and novel addressed to Humphrey the Cabinet Office Cat.

I must say it is one of the most unusual gifts Humphrey has received. However I would like to thank you on his behalf of thinking of him.

I would also like to wish the authors success with their novel.

Yours sincerely

17 July, 1997



Humphrey, (The Downing Street Cat)
10 Downing Street
London
SW1

Dear Humphrey,

Please find enclosed a copy of *THE WILD ROAD*, a debut novel by Gabriel King. Publishing in November 1997 this is a unique novel which I think you will enjoy.

The main characters in the story are cats and the story centres upon Tag, a naive young cat called to participate in the greatest adventure in cat history: to save the Queen of Cats from the Alchemist, who seeks to breed from her his Philosopher's Stone, a Golden Cat. On his journey to adulthood, Tag will learn many things: "Eat when you're hungry, sleep where it's dry. No one is ever what they seem". He will learn what it is to be a cat, after a great many journeys across a country and through the history of cats. He will learn of friendship and love, of bravery and wisdom, and of the wild roads, created by the Great Cats in ancient times. And he will meet some extraordinary companions - the wise old cat, Majicou; the urban fox, Loves a Dustbin; the magpie, One for Sorrow; the King and Queen of Cats; a beautiful American travelling cat called Sealink: Mousebreath, the alley cat; and a little tabby called Cy, who has escaped from a research laboratory with an implant in her head...

Gabriel King is a pseudonym for two collaborating authors editor of *Voyager* at Harper Collins and Both cat lovers, they used to live together. Since their 'divorce' they began this project.

very much wanted you to have a copy of this, their first collaboration - I do hope that you enjoy it.

Yours sincerely

Random House, 20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SA
Telephone: 0171-840 8400
Fax: 0171-233 6127 (Editorial) 0171-932 0761 (Publicity & Marketing)

Arrow is an imprint of Random House UK Limited

Registered No. 954009. Registered Office: 20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SA

6 August 1997

Dear and all in Class 2c,

Many thanks for your letter to Humphrey our resident cat. It is true that Humphrey was recently taken under the wing of a German lady when she mistook him for a stray but luckily her friend recognised him and was returned home straight away!

Humphrey is currently chief mouse catcher at the Cabinet Office and around 10, Downing Street. Since the reign of Henry VIII there has been a history of cats belonging to the Cabinet Office and Her Majesties Treasury. Humphrey's predecessors include Wilberforce and Treasury Bill.

Unlike President Clinton's cat 'socks', Humphrey is an office cat. Any changes within the Government do not affect him as he is a Civil Servant and since the general Election last May he has continued with his duties as usual!

Humphrey really appreciates your interest in him and sends his best wishes. I have enclosed a photograph of Humphrey for Mrs Schier's collection of British cats!

Yours sincerely

Cabinet Office

p.s - Humphrey would not dream of eating the Royal ducks(?!).

lnf
2/12

Baiersdorf, 28.7.1997

To
Humphrey
the cat
Downing Street 10
London
England

Dear Humphrey!

We are class 2c from Baiersdorf in Bavaria. We are 22 children aged 8 years. Our teacher's name is

We have heard on the TV that you were taken for a stray cat. A German woman wanted to "cat-nap" you and take you to Germany. Luckily the vet recognized you at once and you were brought back to Downing Street.

As a government cat you have a very important job. Our teacher who has been to Britain many times, told us about cats, which work at British cathedrals and showed us photos of them. We have also written a letter to Socks, Bill Clinton's cat. Unfortunately, Helmut Kohl has not got a cat. We hope that you will be patrolling St. James' Park for a long time in the future. But please do not eat any Royal ducks!

Sincerely

Class 2c



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
Fax: 0171 270 0618

30 July 1997

Dear Tiger,

Thank you for your letter, dated 23 July 1997, regarding Humphrey the Cabinet Office Cat.

Humphrey is the present official mouser for the Cabinet Office and Downing Street. Since the reign of Henry VIII there has been a history of Cabinet Office and Treasury cats. Predecessors in this post have included Wilberforce and Treasury Bill.

Humphrey is an ordinary black and white 'moggy', who is looked after by Cabinet Office staff. He spends most of the day sleeping in one of his many offices.

He has been accused of several serious crimes over the years but allegations have always, so far, been unfounded !

Unlike President Clinton's cat 'Socks', Humphrey is an office cat. Any changes within Government do not effect him as he is a Civil Servant. Since the beginning of May he has continued with his official duties.

I have enclosed a copy of the press release which announced his return to the office after a lengthy disappearance in 1995 and a photograph taken at the time.

Although Humphrey's disappearance recently was publicised in the newspapers. (He is a cat who enjoys freedom to roam). We always keep a close eye on him during his ventures away from the office.

Yours sincerely

2/12



Vienna, 23rd July 1997

First Cat „Humphrey“
Downing Street 10
London
ENGLAND

Dear Humphrey,

I read from your kidnap in the daily paper. I hope your shock was not too big and you will get well as soon as possible. My name is Tiger. I´am eight years old and live in an appartement with two other women. My fellows are very nice and funny. Most of the time they are laughing, so we are a jolly household.

Would you be so kind and send us your photo with an autograph ?! Enclosed you will find an envelope and a stamp.

I hope to hear from you in the near future.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "TIGER". The letters are stylized and cursive, with some overlapping and loops.





CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
Fax: 0171 270 0618

30 July 1997

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Although Humphrey's disappearance recently was publicised in the newspapers. (He is a cat who enjoys freedom to roam). We do however, always keep a close eye on him during his ventures away from the office.

Yours sincerely

From:

Reference

2/11/72

Dear Humphrey,

My wife + I were alarmed to read in the papers recently that you had been catrapped by a German woman — who no doubt meant well. Unfortunately I only saw the item today, or I would have written last week. I cannot think why your disappearance was not mentioned on TV news — — — If it had been, you would surely have been rescued sooner. Alas, our own cat, Bianca aged 17½, was catrapped by a stupid well-meaning woman who took her to a vet who promptly put her to death because she had cancer of the ear, for which her own vet was of course treating her. R.I.P.

You could be catrapped again during one of your strolls in St James Park — perhaps by a terrorist or some horrid person demanding a vast ransom. The thought is too horrifying — — — Surely in this high-tech age you could wear on your collar a miniature radio transmitter so that the security people at No 10 could at all times have a rough idea of your whereabouts ?? I DO HOPE they will consider this — — — In my view your life is much more important than that awful Gordon Brown who seems intent on reducing our pensions.

With best wishes for a long + happy life

Sincerely yours

6 August 1997

Dear

Thank you for your letter dated 18 July 1997. You will be pleased to hear that Humphrey is almost always wearing identification, but due to the scrapes that all cats seem to get into he also often loses it too! Of course as soon as we notice this we provide him with a new one out of a supply we keep for him here at the Cabinet Office.

So rest assured Humphrey is currently sporting a brand new disc with a name and number!

Many thanks for your concern.

Yours sincerely

Support Unit

10 Downing St.

London.

18 July '97

Dear Sir,

Why on earth don't
you do what every normal
cat owner does, and
provide HUMANE^r with

a cat dye collar
with telephone number
attached! Next time you
might not get him back!
Yours faithfully,



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
Fax: 0171 270 0618

30 July 1997

Dear Bobtail,

Thank you for your letter, dated 10 July 1997, sent to Humphrey the Cabinet Office Cat.

Humphrey is the present official mouser for the Cabinet Office and Downing Street. Since the reign of Henry VIII there has been a history of Cabinet Office and Treasury cats. Predecessors in this post have included Wilberforce and Treasury Bill.

Humphrey is an ordinary black and white 'moggy', who is looked after by Cabinet Office staff. He spends most of the day sleeping in one of his many offices.

He has been accused of several serious crimes over the years but allegations have always, so far, been unfounded ! Well almost.

Unlike President Clinton's cat 'Socks', Humphrey is an office cat. Any changes within Government do not effect him as he is a Civil Servant. Since the beginning of May he has continued with his official duties.

I have enclosed a copy of the press release which announced his return to the office after a lengthy disappearance.

I am very sorry to hear about your misfortunes and hope that things work out for you.

Yours sincerely

2112

10th July 1997.

Dear Humphrey,

My name is Bobtail, I was in a road traffic accident and I lost my tail and smashed up my pelvic area. My original parents did not take care of me because they said the vet's fees were too high so I was kicked out onto the streets. I roamed around for a while and I was quite down in the dumps, I had become disabled and with that came various other problems.

I was playing in someone's garden one day and was thoroughly enjoying digging up some pansies when a horrible man came along and soaked me with a hose-pipe, I know I was being naughty but I hadn't had any fun for ages. I jumped on his wall and was running away when the man aimed at me again, he aimed the jet of water at me which knocked me off the wall. I landed on my side because I still wasn't use to life without a tail and my balance was still a little temperamental. I lay there for a while. A lady appeared and spoke sharply to the man, she carefully picked me up and took me into her house. She called up the vet and made an appointment, I was not impressed I can tell you. The vet's smelt awful, you know that awful clinical smell. The vet looked me over and gave me an x-ray. The lady was sad because the vet could not correct my former injuries, he also prescribed me tabletsindefinitely.

I continued to visit the lady daily, she fed me and we made friends once I'd got use to the idea she wouldn't whisk me off to the vet's every day.

We all live together now, my new mum spoils me rotten, I have my medication daily and although I don't look like your average cat, with my dicky leg and chopped off tail I get around just fine. I do all the usual things that cats do and I enjoy life. You may think that this is a happy ending but something else has now gone wrong.

My dad has haemophilia which means he's got a dicky leg too, that's o.k. but when he took his medication he became ill with hepatitis c. Mum and dad need help because mum stays home to look after dad. She's really terrific she looks after us both, she's pretty and kind and she always has time for a quick stroke even though she's rushed off her feet. Life's pretty tricky but she never moans, I don't think she wants to upset dad. She raises money for other people but she can't for my dad's charity she says she has to keep quiet, people don't understand, they become frightened.

Listen Hump old chap, I know this is forward and everything but could you have a word in your dad's ear and ask him to listen to the Haemophilia Society, I'd really appreciate it.

If you ever want a holiday you are very welcome.

Thanks for listening old bean.

Warmest Regards,



Bobtail Moran



2/12

IFD(OS) - Accommodation Services

Date: 01 July 1997

Tel: 210 0505

Press Office

HUMPHREY PHOTOGRAPHS

Thank you for your further minute of yesterday's date.

2. holds all of our stock of Humphrey's photographs for sending to members of the public. I believe she is running short and will be approaching Press Office in due course (she has obtained the last batch from the photographer who took last year's Christmas card photo) to order further supplies. I will, of course, pay for these and you may retain a small amount for your share of the workload.
3. I do not consider that this photo is of good enough quality for sending to the media. These have in the past been, and presumably will continue to be, provided by Information Division.

Accommodation Services Manager

For Humphrey - ^{hip} with the Blues

Have you heard?

I'm quite the finest catalyst
In deep mIAWing tones
I've made my last heard
Then purred and purred
Head STTING.
Nothing Ever BLURRED

~~I'm~~ I've become
The Prime Minister CAT
I think my Fur Has
Turned Red white and Blue,
My back is ARCICA,
My whiskers are Parsed
I'm waiting TO
SERVE YOU!

3.7.97.

2/12

Dear

Thank you so much
for the new photograph of
Hamprey.
I enclose yet another
POEM for him which I have
sent to Mr. Blair.

Sincerely,

2117

25.7.97

Dear Sir/Madam

I am not sure to whom to address this letter, but I was very concerned that once again the country's most famous cat, Humphrey, had gone missing again, being picked up by somebody who thought he was a stray without a home.

I hope you don't mind my writing but surely this very special Cat should have a collar and a disc indicating his name and where he lives! Most people who possess cats automatically arrange for a collar and a disc, so I do hope that this may be rectified in the future.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Yours faithfully,

file
2112

28/8/97

Dear Humphrey

Thank you for your letter of 4th November, 1996.

I have read your book it was *very* good and I think you should get lots more books and all the pictures are excellent too.

I have a cat called Dawson. I have enclosed a picture of him. He looks quite similar to you, but has shorter fur. I hope you are getting on with your new owners and they are treating you properly.

I heard about the killer of St. James story and it serves the duck right for calling you a quack.

Please write back.



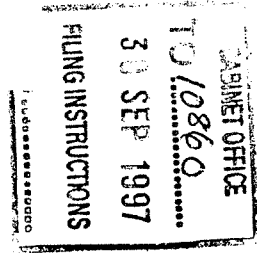
From
Humphrey's

Cabinet Office.

Dear Mr Blair,
Having read in my daily newspaper, of Humphrey the Downing Street cat, missing for several days, and above all a German travel agent taking pity on him, I am forced to ask the question, does nobody in Downing Street feed or care for the poor animal. After the publicity photo's it seems nobody cares. Imagine the poor creature, has not known who to expect to be in different houses at any one time. Surely someone can be a little

responsible and see Humphrey is fed and has someone to sleep safely at night.

You seem to be so good at saying about family values, but one thing you do not seem to have taught yours is, kindness, and the care, and loving of dumb animals. It's least what Clarke did her best.
Yours Faithfully,





INF/2/12

CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270 273
Fax: 0171 270 0618

2 October 1997

Thank you for the interest you have shown in Humphrey, the Cabinet Office cat. We received your letter on Tuesday 30 September 1997.

Humphrey came to the Cabinet Office in 1990, when he was about a year old. There has been a history of having Cabinet Office and Treasury cats dating back to the reign of Henry VIII. Predecessors include Wilberforce and Treasury Bill.

Humphrey, a stray, needed a good home. Humphrey was named after a ballot among the staff. He is named after the fictional Sir Humphrey Appleby of the 'Yes Minister' television series. The actor Nigel Hawthorne is one of his fans.

Humphrey is a 'moggy' an ordinary black and white, fluffy cat. He is looked after by staff on the ground floor of the building and spends most of his time in the reception area. However, he does sometimes spend his summer holiday's in St James' Park.

Yours sincerely,

Office Manager



CABINET OFFICE
70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS
Telephone: 0171-270 0400

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Cabinet Minister for Public Service

TO 10860

30th September 1997

Thank you for your letter to the Prime Minister dated 25th July 1997, which arrived in this office on 26th September regarding Humphrey the cat.

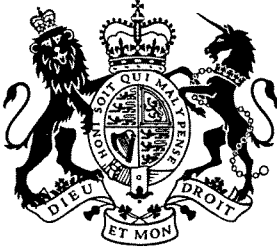
It has been passed on to a the relevant official who wil send you a reply within 15 working days.

Yours sincerely

Ministerial Correspondence Unit



Dear Humphrey the cat, I am one
of your biggest fans, I hope
you are well. a change of
parents can mean a lot of
trauma, I know because my
mum adopted me when I was
8 months old but oh boy what
a life I have, plenty of strokes
and tasty tit bits along with
my regular food, would you
believe she also lets me
to sleep on her bed well you
have to humour these humans
if I go to fat she is out
calling me but you see she
loves me she is having a
nap while I sit and write
to you bye for now
keep safe & warm
Your friend



Information Division

Support Unit

Cabinet Office, 70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS
Telephone: 0171-270- 0436 Facsimile 0171-270- 0618

22 October 1997

Thank you for your letter to Humphrey, our resident cat. Humphrey is currently chief mouse catcher at the Cabinet Office and around 10, Downing Street. Since the reign of Henry VIII there has been a history of cats belonging to the Cabinet Office and Her Majesties Treasury. Humphrey's predecessors include Wilberforce and Treasury Bill.

Unlike President Clinton's cat 'Socks', Humphrey is an office cat. Any changes within the Government do not affect him as he is a Civil Servant and since the General Election last May he has continued with his duties as usual! Despite rumours about Cherie Blair, you can be sure that she loves Humphrey as much as we do.

Humphrey sends thanks for your interest hopes you enjoyed your visit to London.

Kind regards

Support Unit

MF/2/12
File

Santiago de Chile, 15 October 1997.

To my dear Cat friend
HUMPHREY
Downing Str. 10
London
ENGLAND

Dear Humphrey :

It was a big pleasure to meet you at the St James Park during my last visit to London.

A group of your ladies friend told and explained me that you enjoyed the Downing Str. Residence during the time of Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, and that to day you have big problems because the present Prime Minister house lady doesnt want you. What a shame for us your friends and for the whole English country which are world wide famous, like me, as a cat and animals lover.

If your condition will not improve, beside that your group of ladies friend loves you, you always will be very, very welcomed in my house here in Santiago de Chile, South America.

With all my love and best regards,

h



DRAFT

HUMPREY THE CAT RETIRES FROM PUBLIC LIFE

Humphrey the cat retired this week from his job as Chief Government Mouser, a position he has held for 42 feline years.

Paying tribute to his life and work, Cabinet Secretary Sir Robin Butler said:

"Humphrey has played a unique and very valuable role in public life over the last decade. His contribution to keeping the corridors of power mouse free has been exceptional. The professionalism and dedication with which he has carried out his work under successive Prime Ministers and Governments is a credit to both his species and the finest traditions of the Civil Service. I wish him a long and happy retirement."

Although Humphrey never courted a high profile, his unique position in Government ensured that he became very much a public figure.

1989

When he first arrived at the Cabinet Office as a stray in ~~1981~~ he was a great novelty for the media and was often filmed and photographed enjoying the freedom to roam around Downing Street and the Cabinet Office. His public popularity wanned temporarily in ~~1983~~ when he was falsely accused by the press of stalking and killing a young family of ~~starlings~~ nesting in a window box at No 10. An official inquiry into the incident eventually cleared his name and he was publicly exonerated by the then Prime Minister, John Major.

1994
robins ✓

He was however deeply affected by the accusations and devoted the next few years to working quietly and diligently behind the scenes away from public gaze. He kept company with his faithful minders in the Cabinet Office and the kindly tramps in St James's Park where he would often while away the summer days.

In 1995

A few years later Humphrey was once again thrust into the lime light, when he was falsely reported dead. It happened by accident when he got lost one day and ended up at ~~an~~ ~~Army barracks~~ in Pimlico. Thinking he was a stray the ~~soldiers~~ ^{staff} took him in and cared for him as one of their own. It was only when journalists who were regular visitors to the

The Royal Army
Medical College

Cabinet Office assumed the worst and printed his obituary, that the ~~soldiers~~^{staff} realised their mistake. The public re-uniting of Humphrey to his home at the heart of Government made headlines all over the world. He received fan mail from as far away as Iceland and New Zealand, Socks the White House cat sent him a heartwarming message of support and he was given his own 'Spitting Image' puppet.

During the last few years of his career Humphrey attained the air of an elder statesman and gradually cut back on the mousing, preferring to spend his days lounging through Government meetings and occasionally wandering out to Downing Street to meet visiting dignitaries. Throughout this time he was inundated with offers of commercial sponsorship and requests to appear on chat shows and to meet Rolf Harris, but he declined them all and gave up a small fortune in cat food endorsements to avoid misusing his official position.

In recent months it has become apparent that the hectic pace of life and long hours in the corridors of power are now too much for Humphrey to cope with. He finally retired this week to an undisclosed address in the country at the home of a member of staff who has cared for him for many years. Humphrey will now live out his life in peace and obscurity, no doubt reminiscing on the days when he was probably the most famous cat in the world.

Notes to Editors

11

1. Humphrey is approximately 2 human years old, having arrived at the Cabinet Office as a stray in ~~1991~~. 1989.
2. His official position as Chief Government Mouser was a one-off appointment, without precedent, and the Government will not be seeking a replacement.

DRAFT

Press Office
270 2007

Date: 10 November 1997

Re: HUMPHREY'S RETIREMENT - MEDIA HANDLING

Issue

Media handling for Humphrey the Cat's retirement from public life.

Timing

Immediate. He is due to retire this week. (?)

Recommendation

That [redacted] accepts press office recommendations and agrees the attached draft press release.

Background

It has become increasingly apparent that Humphrey is too old and unwell to live in 70 Whitehall. [redacted] has submitted a proposal for his retirement under separate cover.

The media have always shown great interest in Humphrey's activities and his retirement is likely to be a big story. Rather than let the news 'leak' out uncontrolled, it would be best to issue a press release announcing his retirement a day or so after he has gone. In this way we can avoid would be 'cat nappers' and requests from people who would like to give him a home.

There will be press demand for a final photocall, but the cat is too old and ill to oblige. An official announcement, in the form of the attached press release, would give him an appropriate send off and avoid any diary stories of rifts with Ministers.

Conclusion

Is [redacted] content with this proposal and the draft press release? No 10 press office is being kept informed.

6-NOV-1997 MON 15:11 ID:JONATHAN REES DIRECTOR OFFICE

HUMPHREY'S RETIREMENT

As you will probably be aware, Humphrey is now estimated to be at least 11 years old. As somebody who has looked after him now for several years, I am becoming increasingly concerned about his health. Although I no longer work in 70 Whitehall, I regularly visit him, and indeed, still answer letters from members of the public on his behalf.

2. Several members of staff in 70 Whitehall have also brought to my attention that over the last two weeks there has been a noticeable deterioration in Humphrey's health. He is almost completely inactive, and spends all day asleep in Reception. He no longer shows any interest in food, and when he can be persuaded to eat he takes just a mouthful or two. He appears thin and out of condition, and I understand that several visitors to 70 Whitehall, on seeing him in Reception, have commented that he looks ill. I hope to arrange a visit to the vet to get him checked over, but I suspect that the real problem is simply his age, and I think that he needs to be moved to a more stable home environment where he can be looked after properly.

3. In the office environment it is very difficult to give even a healthy cat the attention it needs. For an elderly animal like Humphrey it is almost impossible and, although some members of staff check on him from time to time and ensure he has food and water, at least during office hours, he is not receiving the sort of care he really needs.

4. The story of Humphrey's retirement will probably generate a lot of media interest, and I have spoken to the Press Office about this. They will be submitting a media handling advice under separate cover to you.

5. I have identified a member of staff who has looked after Humphrey "out of hours" for several years, who is willing to give him a home. I think it would be best if this could be arranged by the end of this week, and then for the official announcement to be made.

draft press release

HUMPHREY THE CAT RETIRES FROM PUBLIC LIFE

Humphrey the cat retired this week from his job as Chief Government Mouser, a position he has held for 48 feline years.

Paying tribute to his life and work, Cabinet Secretary Sir Robin Butler said:

“Humphrey has played a unique and very valuable role in public life over the last decade. His contribution to keeping the corridors of power mouse free has been exceptional. The professionalism and dedication with which he has carried out his work under successive Prime Ministers and Governments is a credit to both his species and the finest traditions of the Civil Service. I wish him a long and happy retirement.”

Although Humphrey never courted a high profile, his unique position in Government ensured that he became very much a public figure.

When he first arrived at the Cabinet Office as a stray in 1989 he was a great novelty for the media and was often filmed and photographed enjoying the freedom to roam around Downing Street. His public popularity waned temporarily in 1994 when the press falsely accused him of staking and killing a young family of robins nesting in a window box at No10. An official inquiry into the incident eventually cleared his name and he was publicly exonerated by the then Prime Minister, John Major.

Humphrey was however deeply affected by the accusations and devoted the next few years to working quietly and diligently behind the scenes away from public gaze. He kept company with his faithful minders in the Cabinet Office and the kindly tramps in St James's Park where he would often while away Summer afternoons.

Humphrey was once again thrust into the limelight in 1995 when he was falsely reported dead. It happened by accident when he got lost one day and ended up at the Royal Army Medical College in Pimlico. Thinking he was a stray, the staff at the College took him in and cared for him. It was only when journalists who frequently visited the Cabinet Office assumed the worst and printed his obituary,

that they realised their mistake. The public re-uniting of Humphrey to his home at the heart of Government made headlines all over the world. He received fan mail from as far away as Iceland and New Zealand, Socks the White House cat sent him a message of support and he was given the ultimate accolade for a public figure - his own Spitting Image puppet.

During the last few years of his career, Humphrey attained the air of an elder statesman and gradually cut back on the mousing, preferring to spend his days lounging through Government meetings and occasionally wandering out to Downing Street to meet visiting dignitaries. Throughout this time he was inundated with offers of commercial sponsorship and requests to appear on chat shows and to meet Rolf Harris, but he declined them all and gave up a small fortune in cat food endorsements to avoid misusing his official position.

In recent months it has become apparent that the hectic pace of life and long hours in the corridors of power are now too much for Humphrey to cope with. He finally retired this week to an undisclosed address in the country, at the home of a member of staff who has cared for him for many years.

Humphrey will now live out the remainder of his life in peace and obscurity and will no doubt think fondly of the days when he was probably the most famous cat in the world.

Notes to Editors

1 Humphrey is approximately 11 human years old, having arrived at the Cabinet Office as a stray in 1989. He was named after the fictional Permanent Secretary in the BBC TV series 'Yes Minister'.

2 His official position as Chief Government Mouser was a one-off appointment, without precedent, and the Government will not be seeking a replacement.

Date: 12 November 1997

Re: HUMPHREY'S RETIREMENT - MEDIA HANDLING

Issue

Media handling for Humphrey's retirement from public life.

Timing

Immediate. He is due to 'retire' tomorrow afternoon.

Recommendation

That [redacted] accepts press office recommendations and agrees the attached draft press release.

Background

It has become increasingly apparent that Humphrey is too old and unwell to live in 70 Whitehall. [redacted] has submitted a proposal for his retirement under separate cover.

The media have always shown great interest in Humphrey's activities and his retirement is likely to be a big story. Rather than let the news 'leak' out uncontrolled, it would be best to issue a press release announcing his retirement on Friday, after he has gone. In this way we can avoid would be 'cat nappers' and requests from people who would like to give him a home.

There will be press demand for a final photocall, but the cat is too old and ill to oblige. An official announcement, in the form of the attached press release, would give him an appropriate send off and avoid any diary stories of rifts with Ministers.

Conclusion

Is [redacted] content with this proposal and the draft press release? No10 press office is being kept informed.

Region	Category	Job title	Hourly rate
Eastern Region	(a)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
	(b)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
	(c)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
Merseyside	(a)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
	(b)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
	(c)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
North East	(a)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
	(b)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
	(c)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
North west	(a)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
	(b)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
	(c)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
South east	(a)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
	(b)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
	(c)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
South west	(a)	Administrative Assistant	3.82
	(b)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
	(c)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
West Midlands	(a)	Sandwich course Student	3.77
	(b)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
	(c)	Administrative Assistant	3.84

Region	Category	Job title	Hourly rate
Yorkshire and the Humberside	(a)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
	(b)	Administrative Assistant	3.84
	(c)	Administrative Assistant	3.84

Equal Opportunities

Mr. Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his Answer of 13 November, *Official Report*, column 654, if he will provide a further breakdown, by grade, of the ethnic origin and gender of employees in the Immigration and Nationalities Department. [18627]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Details of the ethnic origin of Immigration and Nationality Directorate staff by gender and grade are set out in the following table. In some cases, grades have been amalgamated in order to avoid disclosure of individual ethnic origin.

The breakdown refers to staff figures as at 28 November 1997. These differ slightly from the figure provided in my answer to my hon. Friend's question on 13 November 1997, *Official Report*, column 654, due to staff changes in the intervening period.

	Gender	White	Black	Asian	Other	Not provided	Total male and female	Total ethnic minority male and female
Industrial	F	0	0	0	0	0	—	—
	M	7	0	0	0	3	10	0
Support Grades	F	62	8	3	0	5	0	—
	M	68	6	5	0	14	171	22
Secretarial Grades	F	90	7	12	0	5	—	—
	M	—	—	—	—	—	114	19
Administrative Assistant	F	277	57	91	10	67	—	—
	M	126	22	43	3	30	726	226
Administrative Officer and Assistant immigration Officer	F	387	57	164	6	43	—	—
	M	163	27	50	4	29	930	308
Executive Officer and Immigration Officer	F	922	36	77	13	161	—	—
	M	1,168	21	44	24	282	2,748	215
Higher Executive Officer and Chief Immigration Officer	F	227	2	5	2	29	—	—
	M	369	4	6	5	69	718	24
Senior Executive Officer and Inspector	F	30	0	0	0	0	—	—
	M	107	1	0	0	8	146	1
Grade 7 and above	F	11	0	1	0	0	—	—
	M	45	0	0	0	1	58	1
Overall totals							5,621	816

PRIME MINISTER

Humphrey

Mr. Alan Clark: To ask the Prime Minister what steps were taken by Cabinet Office staff to establish the state

of health of Humphrey the cat, prior to his departure from Downing Street; on what dates; and if he will make a statement. [18675]

The Prime Minister: The Cabinet Office staff have always taken excellent care of Humphrey the cat. He was taken to a Veterinary Clinic at least every six months for

the last five years where his kidney complaint was treated and his inoculations were kept up to date. His last visit was on 6 August 1997.

In the weeks prior to his retirement from the Cabinet Office, the staff who looked after him were concerned about his loss of appetite and the general deterioration in his condition.

Since retiring to a home environment it is reported that he has responded very well and put on weight.

ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS

Single Regeneration Budget

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions if he will list the locations of the successful outline bids for round 4 SRBs, indicating the names and political control of those local authorities concerned; and if he will make a statement. [17311]

Mr. Caborn: Bids for round 4 of the SRB Challenge Fund are not defined at the outline stage as successful or unsuccessful. I have placed a table which contains details of all 371 outline bids received by Government Offices for the Regions in the House Libraries.

Government Offices for the Regions currently are considering outline bids, to determine the extent to which these meet the objectives and criteria for the Challenge Fund and merit working up into final bids.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions how many local authorities submitted bids for each round of (a) the Single Regeneration Budget and (b) Capital Challenge; and how many were successful in each round. [18740]

Angela Eagle: The information is as follows:

Single Regeneration Budget

The numbers of bids for support from the four rounds of the Single Regeneration Budget Challenge Fund submitted by local authorities, either individually or as partners, are as follows:

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4 ¹
Total number of final bids received	469	329	310	371
Number of final bids received from local authorities ²	235	171	186	167
Number of successful bids from local authorities ²	108	93	109	—

¹ All bids are currently at the outline stage only.

² Where the local authority is the lead partner.

Capital Challenge

There has been only one round of Capital Challenge. There were 330 local authorities, acting jointly or separately, which submitted a total of 326 bids. Of these, 189 bids, involving 217 authorities, were successful either in full or in part.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions what estimates he has made of the costs incurred by local authorities in preparing and submitting bids in each round of (a) the Single Regeneration Budget and (b) Capital Challenge. [18739]

Angela Eagle: For the Single Regeneration Budget Challenge Fund, my Department commissioned the Department of Land Economy at the University of Cambridge to evaluate rounds 1 and 2. An interim report explored the level of resources committed by ten local partnerships, including those with local authority partners, which submitted unsuccessful bids. The average time committed by each partnership to the bidding process was 16 weeks, at a cost of £10,000.

None of the unsuccessful bidders regarded the bidding process as a waste of resources, nor did they regard it as more costly than preparing proposals under other funding regimes. The benefits of the bidding process were recognised, particularly in improving inter-agency partnership working.

For Capital Challenge, the Local Government Research Programme Report "Evaluation of the Experience of Authorities during the Capital Challenge Pilot Scheme Bidding Round" estimated that the average value of resources used in the preparation of bids was £14,000.

London Underground

Mr. Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions which organisations he has met in the last six months to discuss the future of (a) London Underground and (b) the Piccadilly Line; and if he will make a statement. [17527]

Ms Glenda Jackson: My colleagues and I have discussed the future of the Underground with a number of organisations, including London Transport, representatives of Transport Unions, and organisations representing business and other interests in London. No meetings have been held specifically on the future of the Piccadilly Line.

We are urgently considering a range of options for public—private partnerships to improve the Underground.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr. Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions if he will place in the Library responses to his consultation paper on RDAs. [17890]

Mr. Caborn: In accordance with guidelines on deposited papers issued to Government Departments by the House of Commons Library, I placed in the Library on 18 November a list of the responses to the Department's Issues Paper on Regional Development Agencies. The guidelines say that, for reasons of space, consultation paper responses should not be deposited in the Library. Consistent with the guidelines, copies of the responses to the RDAs consultation paper are deposited in the Department's library, and can be made available to Members there.

Nov. 25th 1997

Thank you very much
for kindly sending me the official
press release about Humphrey. I
hope he is now feeling somewhat
better in a quieter home, in
honourable retirement. As far as I
know there is no feline equivalent
of the House of Lords!

With good wishes,
Yours sincerely..

Press Secretary currently
dealing with Humphrey
10 Downing Street

London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Sir or Madam, I have previously
written about Humphrey - including
a mock-epic poem of which you
have a copy - and would be
very grateful if you would once
more send me the official press
release, about his honourable
retirement. Your office has been
most kind on previous occasions,
I enclose S.A.E. I hope to
provide little pieces for two
Esperanto magazines. If you happen

2.
to be able to spare me a photo,
that would be splendid. On my
modest pension and limited know-how,
I cannot well seek one from an
agent.

Does the Cabinet Office expect
the eventual appointment of another
official Mouser?

Yours truly,

BACKGROUND NOTE

Alan Clark was quoted in the press on Sunday 23 November as saying that Humphrey was not in retirement, but was in fact dead. He speculated that his execution was carried out on the request of the Prime Minister's wife because she did not like cats.

A photocall was arranged with Humphrey in retirement on Monday 24 November to prove he was alive. A photographer from the Press Association and a cameraman from ITN filmed and photographed him with a selection of the day's newspapers. The photographer had photographed him before and testified that it was indeed Humphrey.

No10 have since announced they will be getting another cat and have a suitable replacement in mind.

Humphrey file 2/12

OPS REF:1997/98/1-0073

ORDINARY WRITTEN QUESTION
FOR ANSWER ON TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER
ANSWERED ON [DATE]

Conservative - Kensington and Chelsea

NO.44 Mr Alan Clark MP

To ask the Prime Minister, what steps were taken by Cabinet Office staff to establish the state of health of Humphrey the cat, prior to his departure from Downing Street; on what dates; and if he will make a statement.

[NAME OF MINISTER]

The Cabinet Office staff have always taken excellent care of Humphrey the cat. He was taken to the Elizabeth Street Veterinary Clinic, SW1, at least every six months for the last five years where his kidney complaint was treated and his inoculations were kept up to date. His last visit was on 6th August 1997.

In the weeks prior to his retirement from the Cabinet Office, the staff who looked after him were concerned about his loss of appetite and the general deterioration in his condition.

Since retiring to a home environment he has responded very well and put on weight, as recent press photographs prove.



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270¹272
Fax: 0171 270 0618

09 December 1997

Thank you for the interest you have shown in Humphrey the cat. We received your letter on Tuesday 09 December 1997.

Unfortunately, we do not have a photographs of Humphrey, but I have enclosed a copy of the Cabinet Office christmas card which features him on the front.

Yours sincerely



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, London, SW1P 3AG
0171-270 5000

9th
December 1997

Cabinet Office
Whitehall
LONDON SW1

With reference to our earlier telephone conversation, please find enclosed a letter from requesting a photograph of Humphrey.

I would be very grateful if you could pass this on to the relevant person.

Many thanks.

Dear Mumshrey

Please can I have a photo of you

to my house

Humphrey file



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

Information Division
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 270
Fax: 0171 270 0618

Dear

Thank you for your recent letter addressed to the Prime Minister, I have been asked to reply.

Your portfolio of pet portraits was very impressive, however we already have a portrait of Humphrey hanging on the walls of the Cabinet Office. An artist sent it in two years ago, she copied his likeness from press photographs.

It was kind of you to offer and I wish you well in your career.

Yours sincerely

Senior Information Officer.



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*Grateful if you
could arrange a
reply to be
sent on the
PM's behalf.*

From the Assistant Private Secretary

CABINET OFFICE
A 2050d
2 - DEC 1997
FILING INSTRUCTIONS
FILE No.

CABINET OFFICE

I enclose a letter which the Prime Minister has received from

I should be grateful if you could arrange for a suitable reply to be sent to the Prime Minister's behalf.

RECEIVED

1 December 1997

PET PORTRAIT ARTIST

ORDER FORM

Portraits

Size 'A'	4x6	£38.50	£
Size 'B'	8x10	£59.50	£
Size 'C'	14x12	£76.50	£
Size 'D'	16x18	£85.50	£

Larger sizes on request (all sizes approx)
(Prices include any mount and frame)

Cars

Car portraits available on request

Paperweights: (Watercolour mini-portraits)

Commission of pet paperweights (Specify oval or round)	£25.00	£
From stock designs (Ask for availability)	£16.50	£

Pressed Flower Weights £8.50 £

Presentation Box	£1.00	£
Stand for weight (cream hinged)	£ .80	£

Personal Paperweights

(Your photograph in a weight) £12.99 £
(Includes Presentation Box & Delivery)

Delivery for Portraits	C & D £7.50	£
	A & B £5.00	£

Paperweights £3.50 £

Add £1 extra for each additional weight

Total Enclosed £

(PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO A. M. OFFEN)

DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE PHOTOS OF PETS FOR PAINTING OR PHOTOS FOR PERSONAL WEIGHTS!
Standard photos please for mounting in weights.

Your Name & Address:.....

Post Code:..... Tel No:.....

Delivery:

Normal portraits & mini portraits in 14 days from receipt of order (providing photos suitable). Flower paperweights and photo weights within 5 days. Please, however, allow up to 28 days for all orders unless otherwise agreed. Thank you.

20th November, 1997

SR/CO

Secretary to Mr T Blair
10 Downing Street
LONDON

Dear Mr Blair,

With regard to the recent retirement of "Humphrey" the cat I thought it would be nice if, like other important residents of No 10, he had his own portrait hanging as a permanent reminder of his loyal service to the country!

To this effect I have enclosed some details and look forward to the possibility of painting Humphrey.

Kind regards,



CABINET OFFICE
Office of Public Service

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70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Tel: 0171 2701272
Fax: 0171 270 0618

09 December 1997

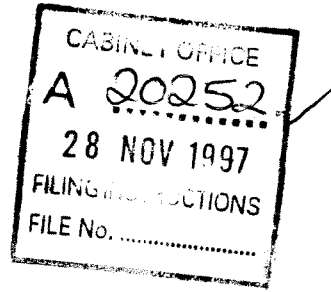
Dear

Thank you for the interest you have shown in Humphrey the cat.

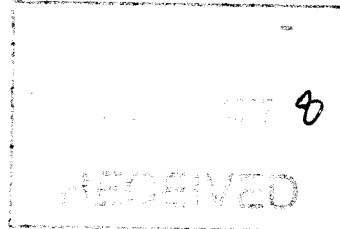
Unfortunately, last years christmas card is unavailable, but I have enclosed a copy of the Cabinet Office christmas card for this year which features him on the front.

Yours sincerely

Can you take this
or please.



Cabinet Secretary
Cabinet Office
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AD



25th November 1997

Dear Sir

In my copy of the Daily Telegraph yesterday I saw a beautiful picture of Humphrey the cat sitting in front of a Christmas tree, which apparently was the Cabinet Office Christmas card last year. As a cat fanatic who has a corner of my office devoted to Humphrey, I wondered if there was any possibility of having a copy of the card? I should be most grateful. It would certainly be the pièce de résistance in my collection of Humphrey pictures!

Yours faithfully

~

Lincolnshire County Council
Grantham Museum
St Peter's Hill
Grantham
Lincolnshire
NG31 6PY

20th January 1998

Dear

Thank you for letter of 12 January, regarding the opening of Grantham Museum, Cat exhibition, by Humphrey in May.

As you are aware Humphrey retired from public life in November as he was getting old and suffered from a kidney complaint. During the last few years of his career, Humphrey was inundated with offers of commercial sponsorship and requests to appear on cat shows, but he declined them all to avoid misusing his official position.

Unfortunately, Humphrey will not be returning to public life and will be unable to attend the opening of your cat show, primarily due to his health and age.

May I take this opportunity to wish Grantham Museum every success with it's Cat exhibition and thank you for your interest in Humphrey.

Yours sincerely

Administrative Officer



LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

EDUCATION and CULTURAL SERVICES
DIRECTORATE
Director: Norman Riches

Grantham and Stamford Museums
Grantham Museum, St Peter's Hill, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6PY
Telephone (01476) 568783 Fax (01476) 592457

File

Cab office
Press office

The Press Office
10 Downing Street
LONDON

12 January 1998

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing with rather an unusual request. It concerns the very well known cat that used to inhabit 10 Downing Street, and has now apparently been retired.

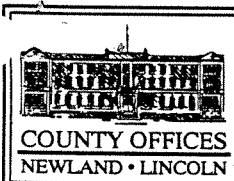
I am in the process of organising an exhibition on the subject of the pussy cat at Grantham Museum. It will cover the topic from a variety of different angles. The history of cats, cats in literature, courageous cats and famous cat lovers will all be looked at. Cats in art will be another major area of study, the work of local artists will be represented plus we will have a number of Louis Wain originals as well. Both the RSPCA and Cats Protection League will have displays, as will local Cat Care groups.

For such an important Cat exhibition, I felt that the ideal individual to open it should be the best known cat in the country, Humphrey. I realise that as he has now been retired, you may not have direct contact with him, but if this is the case, could you supply a contact name and address? Would there be an appearance fee involved? We would be very willing to sort out travel and accommodation for Humphrey and he would obviously be given celebrity treatment. Also considering all the recent stories and rumours about the fate of Humphrey, this would be an ideal occasion to demonstrate he is still alive and well. The opening of the exhibition is due to be on the 1st or 2nd of May 1998.

Any information or guidance about securing the services of Humphrey will be gratefully received. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Acting Assistant Curator, Grantham & Stamford Museums



LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

EDUCATION and CULTURAL SERVICES
DIRECTORATE
Director: Norman Riches

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Telephone (01476) 568783 Fax (01476) 592457

(file)
2/12

Cabinet Office
Office of Public Service
Information Division
70 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AS

9 March 1998

Dear

Thank you for your letter of 20 January regarding Humphrey the cat. I can appreciate that his age and health may well restrict his movements.

However I am writing to ask one more favour. If possible, please forward a photograph of Humphrey which the museum can use in the exhibition. The museum is willing to pay any expenses incurred by this. We feel that any exhibition about cats would be incomplete without a photograph of Humphrey.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Acting Assistant Curator, Grantham & Stamford Museums

PA 18.74
2.99
Photolibrary
9637066

WISHING YOU
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM

CABINET OFFICE

