

Confidential Filing

Visit of Prince Reza Pahlavi  
to the UK.

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March 1982

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

28 March 1982

PRINCE REZA PAHLAVI

Thank you for your letter of 26 March about the visit to this country of the above.

The Prime Minister discussed the matter with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary on the telephone earlier today. They agreed that it would not be right for a Minister to see him but that instead arrangements should be made for him to be received by an FCO official. In addition, it was desirable that Sir Anthony Kershaw, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, should see him.

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



P.T.O.



I disagree. (1)  
The Shah was a  
great friend of  
this country

10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

and I think that either  
Mr. Bond or Mr. Lane should

Prince Reza Pahlavi see his son

The F.C.O. would like to telegraph Rabat on  
Saturday if possible. If you are able to deal with  
the attached letter by then, perhaps the duty clerk  
could be told of your decision.

2. Agree that neither you nor the Foreign  
Secretary should see Prince Reza?

3. You should know that Jan Jans asked me  
the other day whether he could entertain the Prince  
while he was here. I said that I saw no objection  
provided he did so purely privately and not as you  
PPS. I am will see him as my P.P.S. - how  
can he do otherwise.

4. but I am sure that if you saw the Prince there  
would be a considerable risk of a hostile Iranian reaction,  
involving either our Mission in Tehran, our commercial  
interests or the two Britons in Iranian prisons.

A.F.C. 26.3.52

I understand that a  
French official met the  
—— ———  
Prince on his  
arrival in Paris. Surely  
we can do at least the same  
not.





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 March 1982

*Dear John,*

Earlier this year Mr Julian Amery, Mr Eldon Griffiths and other MPs asked whether it would be possible for Prince Reza Pahlavi, son of the late Shah, to pay an informal visit to this country.

Ministers agreed to a visit subject to the following four conditions:

- (a) that the Prince would not become involved in public activity while in the United Kingdom;
- (b) that the length of his stay would be agreed in advance;
- (c) that we would not offer him official courtesies; but
- (d) that we would ask the security authorities to provide adequate protection.

The Metropolitan Police have already been in touch with Prince Reza's representative about security arrangements.

The visit will take place from 28 March to 4 April. On 23 March Moroccan liaison told our friend in Rabat that King Hassan had asked them to help arrange an interview between Prince Reza and either the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State. Prince Reza would be free on 1 April, 2 April or 4 April.

It is possible that the Moroccans may press Prince Reza's case and may be upset if we do not respond, but Anglo-Moroccan relations should not in our view weigh heavily.

Whatever conditions we seek to impose, Prince Reza is likely to use his visit to this country to bolster his support from exiled monarchist groups. The Iranian Embassy will inevitably view news of his visit with great suspicion. While relations with the Iranians are difficult, there have been recent signs of improvement and we have serious interests which might be jeopardised by official contact with the Prince including a £100 million contract under negotiation with Talbot, and longer-term opportunities in the petroleum industry and

/other





other fields. There are also two outstanding consular cases. Though we cannot be completely certain, we do not believe that Iranian reaction to the visit will lead to the occupation of our Mission in Tehran, although the risk of this would obviously be increased if he were to be received officially.

The Secretary of State believes that neither he nor the Prime Minister should see Prince Reza. If the Prime Minister accepts Lord Carrington's recommendation, we would propose to despatch instructions to Rabat to warn Prince Reza politely that we would regard a meeting with British ministers or officials as inappropriate. These instructions should reach Rabat as soon as possible.

*Yours ever*

*John Holmes*

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing St



26 MAR 1982



