

PREM 19/893



MT

Confidential Filing

Disappearance of Mark Thatcher  
in Algeria during Paris to Dakar  
Car Rally

PRIME  
MINISTER

DECEMBER 1981  
January 1982

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>14.1.82</del>							
<del>15.1.82</del>							
18.1.82							
<del>21.1.82</del>							
<del>24.1.82</del>							
<del>3.2.82</del>							
<del>8.2.82</del>							
<del>10.2.82</del>							
<del>15.2.82</del>							
<del>10.3.82</del>							
<del>6.9.82</del>							
13.9.82							

PREM 19/893





Prime Minister

②

To take receipt.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

AJC-13.  
7

London SW1A 2AH

*pm*

13 September, 1982

*mt*

*Dear John,*

Mr Mark Thatcher

Thank you for your letter of 6 September enclosing a cheque for £15.16 signed by the Prime Minister to cover further costs incurred in the rescue of Mr Mark Thatcher.

/ I enclose an official receipt for the cheque.

*Yours ever*

*J E Holmes*

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street



FILE SW  
Prime  
Minister

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

6 September, 1982

Mr. Mark Thatcher

You wrote to Willie Rickett on 2 September referring to two further bills in respect of the rescue of Mark Thatcher in Algeria earlier this year.

I enclose a cheque for £15.16 signed by the Prime Minister.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

JS





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 September 1982

Prime minister

Dear Willie,

Mr Mark Thatcher

MS Wm 3/9

In paragraph 2 of my letter of 9 March to John Coles, I referred to the 'final sum due' to be met by the Prime Minister in respect of the rescue of her son.

A month after that letter was sent, two more bills were received by our Embassy in Algiers. They were for landing charges incurred by the aircraft bringing Mr Denis Thatcher from the United Kingdom and amount to a sterling equivalent of £15.16. The delay in submitting them to you was caused by the Embassy accountant charging them to a suspense account which has only now been audited.

In the light of the Prime Minister's wish that no charge should be made to public funds, we assume that she would wish to meet this bill herself. If so, perhaps you could let me have a cheque for £15.16, made payable to the 'Foreign and Commonwealth Office'. I am sorry that we have to trouble the Prime Minister again so long after the event.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

W Rickett Esq  
10 Downing Street

MFJ

Prime Minister

10 March 1982

Mr. Mark Thatcher

Thank you for your letter of 9 March.

I enclose a cheque for £1784.80 made payable to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. I should be grateful if you could let me have a receipt which I can pass to the Prime Minister.

JC

John Holmes Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

9





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 March 1982

Prime Minister

See X. If you agree, could you please let me have a cheque.

A. J. C.  $\frac{9}{3}$

Dear John,

Mr Mark Thatcher

Thank you for your letter to Francis Richards of 15 February in which you asked, since the Prime Minister had decided that she did not wish any charge to be made to public funds, for a bill for £1,190.95 to be sent to you. You also said that the Prime Minister would meet bills for a total of £583.14, referred to in your letter of 8 February, when they were presented, the total for the two bills being £1,774.09.

Further calculations here show that the sum due, as you will see from the enclosed statement, is in fact £1,784.80. As previously agreed, the Prime Minister is being asked to pay Consular fee 37 (£412.50) instead of the actual costs of air fares and subsistence (items 1 - 3 of the enclosure with my letter of 3 February) plus the cost of accommodating the Swiss Rally team. Although the Prime Minister asked that the bill for this (item 4) should be sent direct to No 10, it was, in fact, presented to and paid by the Embassy Accountant in Dakar and is, therefore, repayable to the FCO. In the event, the final sum due amounts to £129.42.

The remainder of the amount to be met by the Prime Minister is previously agreed telegram and telephone costs (items 5 - 8).

X | I should be grateful, if the Prime Minister agrees, if you would let me have a cheque for £1784.80, made payable to the "Foreign and Commonwealth Office".

/I should

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street



I should incidentally apologise for an incorrect total figure for costs in Francis Richards's letter to you of 10 February. That figure (£2,307.09) did not include the difference between the actual costs of items 1 to 3 and the Consular fee, deducted lower down. The total should therefore have read £2,359.02. After the deductions, the figure of the total cost to the taxpayer should read £1,242.88 and represents the costs of telegram and telephone calls as shown on the attached latest statement of costs.

*Yours ever*

*John Holmes*

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary



MR MARK THATCHER

STATEMENT OF RECOVERABLE FCO COSTS

CONSULAR FEE 37 £412.50

Accommodation:

Swiss Rally team 1 night in Bamako £129.42

Cost of telegrams/telephone calls:

British Embassy, Dakar 166.56

British Embassy, Algiers 141.73

British Embassy, Paris 871.31

FCO 63.28 1242.88

TOTAL £1784.80



Prime Minister File

Surf

b.c. Mr. Whitmore  
Mr. Pattison  
Mr. Rickett  
Miss Stephens  
Mr. Gow

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 February 1982

MR. MARK THATCHER

Would you please refer to my letter of 8 February.

On reflection, the Prime Minister has decided that she does not wish any charge to be made to the taxpayer for the search and rescue operation and the consequent diplomatic exchanges. I should therefore be grateful if you could arrange for a bill to be sent to me for the sum referred to in your letter of 10 February, namely £1190.95 with advice as to how the Prime Minister should make payment for this amount.

It remains the case that the Prime Minister will also meet the bills for a total of £583.14 referred to in my letter of 8 February, as and when the bills are presented.

This clearly means that the public line agreed earlier should be modified. I enclose a revised line to take with this letter. In most cases it should be possible to say simply 'No charges have been made to official funds.' The rest of the line to take is included for use only when necessary.

A. J. COLES

S

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

CONFIDENTIAL



PUBLIC LINE TO TAKE

No charges have been made to official funds in respect of the search and rescue operation and the consequent diplomatic exchanges.

The major part of the expenses was met by the Algerian Government. Mrs. Thatcher has expressed her gratitude for their generosity. The Governments of France and Mali also contributed to the operation at their own expense and similar thanks have been expressed.

No charge has been made to official funds in regard to the hotel expenses in Tamanrasset of Mr. Denis Thatcher, Mr. Mark Thatcher or the accompanying British officials.

PRIME MINISTER

MARK - RESCUE OPERATION

You said you wanted to discuss with Mr. Thatcher over the weekend.

In case you need reminding of the papers I attach some. You agreed earlier (Flag A) that certain bills, for a total of £583.14, should be presented to you for settlement when they arrived. They cover items 1-4 on the list at Flag B. The figure of £583.14 is higher than the sub-total given on the list at Flag B because the practice is to charge not actual costs but the costs prescribed by consular rules.

In addition, there is the total cost to the taxpayer of £1,191. I think you wanted to consider the latter figure.

Meanwhile, we have held up replies to a number of letters and are not using the public line which you approved earlier.

A.F.C. 12/2

I must pay the £1,191. We can therefore say that no extra cost has fallen on the British taxpayer. To who do I make out the cheque?

12 February 1982

MS.





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 February 1982

Mr. Saltzman

To see. Let's use £1191.

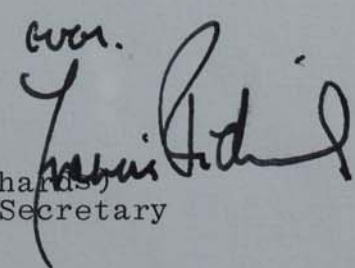
A.J.C. 11/2

Dear John,

Mr Mark Thatcher

You asked for advice on the cost to the taxpayer of the search and rescue operation of Mr Mark Thatcher, and the consequent diplomatic exchanges. The amount is £1,190.95, and is calculated as follows:

Total Costs	£2,307.09
<u>Less</u> Item 9 (Estimated telegram costs: costs were estimated for the purpose of this exercise, but there were no actual costs because telegrams were transmitted during time already allocated to the FCO.)	533.00
<u>Less</u> Items 1 - 4 (Recoverable)	531.21
<u>Less</u> the difference between £412.50 (Consular fee 37 to be recovered from Prime Minister) and £360.57 (actual cost)	51.93
Total cost to taxpayer:	£1,190.95

Yours ever,  


(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

Prime Minister

~~Adm~~

Shall I keep with other "Mark" letters?

Kay No I think we in CF ought to retain ADJ 11/2 Kay 10/2

Pm JP

10 February 1982

You told me on the telephone the other day that the High Commission in Wellington had suggested that the Prime Minister's letter of 20 January to the Prime Minister of New Zealand could more appropriately begin with the words "Dear Rob". The Prime Minister has therefore signed the letter again and I enclose this version. You told me that the text of the message had of course been telegraphed at the time.

J COLES

Francis Richards, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

B



CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

103  
cc. MAP  
IGOD.  
cs.

From the Private Secretary

8 February 1982

Mr. Mark Thatcher

Thank you for your letter of 3 February.

I agree that as and when the bills relating to items 1-4 of the enclosed statement arrive, they should be presented here for settlement (the Prime Minister agrees that it is right that these items should not be charged to official funds). It is also agreed that the actual charge to be levied in respect of these items should be £583.14.

I should add that the bill for the accommodation in Bamako of the Swiss Rally Team has not yet reached us here. You may think it worth enquiring whether the Embassy in Dakar has received it.

I also agree that the public line to be used as necessary in respect of the cost of the search and rescue operation should read as in the final paragraph of your letter, subject to the slight amendments which we discussed at the end of last week. For ease of reference, the agreed line is contained in the enclosure to this letter. I wait to hear from you what figure should be inserted in the second paragraph.

of 11

ASC

Francis Richards, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

of 11

PUBLIC LINE TO TAKE

No charges have been made to official funds for the cost of the search and rescue operation other than those which would be so charged in the case of any UK citizen in distress. All other bills which have been raised have been met by Mrs Thatcher personally.

The actual net cost to the UK taxpayer, which includes all those expenses which in any case would normally fall to the Government, amounts to ~~£~~!!91.

The major part of the expenses was met by the Algerian Government. Mrs Thatcher has expressed her gratitude for their generosity. The Governments of France and Mali also contributed to the operation at their own expense and similar thanks have been expressed.

No charge has been made to official funds in regard to the hotel expenses in Tamanrasset of Mr. Denis Thatcher, Mr. Mark Thatcher or the accompanying British officials.



PRIME MINISTER

MARK: COSTS OF RESCUE OPERATION, ETC.

The attached FCO letter contains advice on how the costs should be apportioned and the public line which should be taken where necessary.

All the hotel expenses in Tamanrasset have been met by the Algerian Government. The attached telegram describes the background.

One or two bills may emerge later which are not taken account of in the attached letter. But I am sure they will not be large. The letter does not take account of telephone calls made from Downing Street. These were numerous but I think they are a proper charge to public funds either because:

- (a) they were required for reasons of courtesy towards a foreign government, or
- (b) they were connected with an operation to locate a UK citizen in distress and it is not normal practice to make a charge for such calls.

In advising how to apportion the costs the FCO based themselves, with my agreement, on two principles:

- (a) As regards what may broadly be called the Consular aspect (the various activities carried out by British officials in support of the search and rescue operation), public funds should bear only such costs as they would have done if Mark had been an ordinary UK citizen.
- (b) As regards other costs a distinction should be made between those which were incurred for reasons of diplomacy (e.g. messages to the Presidents of Algeria and France), which are a proper charge to public funds, and other costs which cannot properly be so charged.

/If you agree

If you agree with the advice, the total cost to be met by you or your family personally would be, subject to any unforeseeable bills coming in later, a maximum of £583.14. (This is made up of £412.50, which is the higher rate for items 1-3 in the table of costs and is explained at 'X' on page 1 of the attached letter) and the bill of £170.64 for the Swiss Rally Team (item 4). There is no need to pay now. I will arrange for the bills to be sent to us.

We have had a number of enquiries from the public and one or two from MPs about the expense. I believe that the arrangements described in the FCO letter will enable us to deal with virtually all of these in an entirely reasonable and justifiable way.

There is one line of criticism which is less easy to deal with. This is that it is wrong for a developing country like Algeria to have taken on such a large bill. We can of course reply by saying that this is a matter for the Algerian Government and that we are grateful for their generosity. But this perhaps does not entirely dispose of the criticism. You earlier considered whether you wanted to make some gesture towards an Algerian charity and may want to think further about this. I do not think it essential for you to do anything of this kind (we have not heard much criticism of this sort).

Do you agree that:

- (a) As and when bills for the total of £583.14 arrive they should be presented to you for settlement?
- (b) We should as necessary use the public line at the end of the FCO letter?

*Yes  
(and the bill for  
the Swiss Rally  
Team)*

*Yes.*

*A.J.C.*

4 February 1982





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 February 1982

Dear John,

Mr Mark Thatcher

You asked for advice on (a) the costs of the search and rescue operation; and (b) (your letter of 3 February) the line to be used in responding to inquiries on this subject.

It appears to us that the costs which we should seek to recover in this case are those listed in items 1-4 of the attached statement, totalling £531.21. For reasons explained below, however, the actual charge to be levied should be the rather higher figure of £583.14. These costs are primarily those we should normally consider 'consular'; we do not think it right to seek recovery of those costs incurred for primarily 'diplomatic' reasons.

Perhaps it would help if I explained in rather more detail the criteria we have adopted. The normal rules have given us some guidance, but in such a case as this there are inevitably considerable grey areas where we have had to rely on judgement. In order to make sure that the outcome is readily defensible in the kind of terms you have in mind, we have in cases of doubt opted for the higher charge to the Prime Minister. We have divided the cost into three categories:

- (a) Normal 'consular' costs;
- (b) Normal 'diplomacy' costs;
- (c) Others (ie 'possibly recoverable').

Items 1-3 in the attached statement are unusual. If it is necessary for a consular official to attend at a place other than consular premises, it is normal to charge fee 37 in the Consular Fees Table. In this case, the total fee would be £412.50, and though this is higher than the actual cost of £360.57 shown in the table, we believe that it would be right for this higher sum to be recovered.

Item 4 in the statement is the cost of accommodating the Swiss Rally Team for an extra night in Bamako. I understand that you asked that the team leader be asked to stay on, and that the bill be sent to you. This item is not a proper charge to public funds and if it has been so charged we believe that it should be recovered.

CONFIDENTIAL

/The

did.  
 came at  
 to time he  
 s the last  
 who had seen  
 and we might have  
 asked him to go back  
 locate the position. A.T.C. 4/2





CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

The bulk (over 75 per cent) of the remaining costs (items 5-9 in the attached statement) relate to telegrams and telephone calls. These can properly be attributed to normal consular costs, or in the case of messages of thanks (including translations) from the Prime Minister, Mr Denis Thatcher and Mr Mark Thatcher to Heads of States or Governments, Government officials and so on, to 'diplomacy'. We regard these as a proper charge to the FCO. The cost of messages of thanks is not listed separately in the statement. We do not believe that it would be either reasonable or practical to treat those messages sent by other members of the Prime Minister's family as different from those which she sent herself. The services provided by foreign authorities were so provided by virtue of the relationship of Mr Denis Thatcher and Mr Mark Thatcher to the Prime Minister, and they were obliged to send messages of thanks for reasons of diplomacy- the only consideration in the case of members of the public would be that of courtesy.

Apart from the costs shown in the statement, which are readily identifiable, there are other costs not included, notably man hours spent on the case, both in London and abroad, and local telephone calls in London. These have not been included because, apart from the fact that it would be almost impossible to arrive at any sort of accurate figure, it is not normal consular practice to charge such costs over and above statutory fees or actual expenses.

As regards the line to take in answer to inquiries, the line you suggested in your letter of 3 February seems to us appropriate, but we would suggest that it be modified so as to limit it to the cost of the search and rescue operation, and to exclude the diplomatic costs of the various messages of thanks. It would then read as follows:

'No charges have been made to official funds for the cost of the search and rescue operation other than those which would be so charged in the case of any UK citizen in distress. All other bills which have been raised have been met by Mrs Thatcher personally.

'The total cost to the UK taxpayer, which consists of those expenses which the Government would meet in the case of assistance for any UK citizen in distress, amounts to ..... (a figure will have to be inserted later).

'The major part of the expenses was met by the Algerian Government. Mrs Thatcher has expressed her gratitude for their generosity. The Governments of France and Mali also contributed to the operation at their own expense and similar thanks have been expressed.

'No charge has been made to official funds in regard to the hotel expenses in Tamanrasset of Mr Denis Thatcher, Mr Mark Thatcher or the accompanying British officials.'

CONFIDENTIAL

/.....





CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

A J Coles Esq  
Private Secretary  
No.10 Downing St

*Yours ever.*

(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Francis N Richards', written in a cursive style.

CONFIDENTIAL

## CONFIDENTIAL

MARK THATCHERSTATEMENT OF FCO COSTS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>AMOUNT (£)</u>
1.	Air Fares: Consul-Dakar/Bamako	184.22
2.	Subsistence: Consul(Dakar)(2 nights Bamako)	149.74
3.	Subsistence: 2nd Sec(Dakar) (1 night Gao)	26.61
4.	Swiss Rally Team: 1 night accomodation (Bamako)	170.64
	Sub Total : other costs	<u>531.21</u>
5. Dakar:	Embassy-Telegrams/telephone calls	166.56
6. Algiers:	Embassy-Telegrams/telephone calls	141.73
7. Paris:	Embassy-Telegrams/telephone calls	871.31
8. FCO:	Telegrams actual and International telephone calls	63.28
9. FCO:	Telegrams (estimated)	533.00
Total		<u>£2307.09</u>

CONFIDENTIAL



ARK THATCHER

STATEMENT OF FCO COSTS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>AMOUNT (£)</u>
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4.	Swiss Rally Team: 1 night accomodation (Bamako)	<sup>£12</sup> 170.64
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Total		<u>£2307.09</u>

~~2307.09~~  
~~583.14~~  
1724.95  
 533  
1191.95

58

PRIME MINISTER

MARK: COSTS OF RESCUE OPERATION, ETC.

The attached FCO letter contains advice on how the costs should be apportioned and the public line which should be taken where necessary.

All the hotel expenses in Tamanrasset have been met by the Algerian Government. The attached telegram describes the background.

One or two bills may emerge later which are not taken account of in the attached letter. But I am sure they will not be large. The letter does not take account of telephone calls made from Downing Street. These were numerous but I think they are a proper charge to public funds either because:

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/If you agree



If you agree with the advice, the total cost to be met by you or your family personally would be, subject to any unforeseeable bills coming in later, a maximum of £583.14. (This is made up of £412.50, which is the higher rate for items 1-3 in the table of costs and is explained at 'X' on page 1 of the attached letter) and the bill of £170.64 for the Swiss Rally Team (item 4). There is no need to pay now. I will arrange for the bills to be sent to us.

We have had a number of enquiries from the public and one or two from MPs about the expense. I believe that the arrangements described in the FCO letter will enable us to deal with virtually all of these in an entirely reasonable and justifiable way.

There is one line of criticism which is less easy to deal with. This is that it is wrong for a developing country like Algeria to have taken on such a large bill. We can of course reply by saying that this is a matter for the Algerian Government and that we are grateful for their generosity. But this perhaps does not entirely dispose of the criticism. You earlier considered whether you wanted to make some gesture towards an Algerian charity and may want to think further about this. I do not think it essential for you to do anything of this kind (we have not heard much criticism of this sort).

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*Yes  
(and the bill for  
the Swiss Rally  
Team)*

*Yes.*

*A.J.C.*

4 February 1982





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 February 1982

Dear John,

Mr Mark Thatcher

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We did.  
because at  
that time he  
was the last  
person who had seen  
Paul and we might have  
needed him to go back  
to locate the position. A.T.C. 4/2

CONFIDENTIAL

/The





CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

The bulk (over 75 per cent) of the remaining costs (items 5-9 in the attached statement) relate to telegrams and telephone calls. These can properly be attributed to normal consular costs, or in the case of messages of thanks (including translations) from the Prime Minister, Mr Denis Thatcher and Mr Mark Thatcher to Heads of States or Governments, Government officials and so on, to 'diplomacy'. We regard these as a proper charge to the FCO. The cost of messages of thanks is not listed separately in the statement. We do not believe that it would be either reasonable or practical to treat those messages sent by other members of the Prime Minister's family as different from those which she sent herself. The services provided by foreign authorities were so provided by virtue of the relationship of Mr Denis Thatcher and Mr Mark Thatcher to the Prime Minister, and they were obliged to send messages of thanks for reasons of diplomacy- the only consideration in the case of members of the public would be that of courtesy.

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CONFIDENTIAL

/.....



CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

A J Coles Esq  
Private Secretary  
No.10 Downing St

*Yours ever.*

(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Francis Richards', written over the typed name.

CONFIDENTIAL



MARK THATCHERSTATEMENT OF FCO COSTS

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MARK THATCHER

STATEMENT OF FCO COSTS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>AMOUNT (£)</u>
1.	Air Fares: Consul-Dakar/Bamako	184.22
2.	Subsistence: Consul(Dakar)(2 nights Bamako)	149.74
3.	Subsistence: 2nd Sec(Dakar) (1 night Gao)	26.61
4.	Swiss Rally Team: 1 night accomodation (Bamako)	<sup>412</sup> 170.64
	Sub Total : other costs	<u>531.21</u>
5. Dakar:	Embassy-Telegrams/telephone calls	166.56
6. Algiers:	Embassy-Telegrams/telephone calls	141.73
7. Paris:	Embassy-Telegrams/telephone calls	871.31
8. FCO:	Telegrams actual and International telephone calls	63.28
9. FCO:	Telegrams (estimated)	<del>533.00</del>
Total		<u>£2307.09</u>
		<del>531.21</del>
		<del>1775.88</del>
		58

2307.09  
 583.14  
 -----  
 1724.95  
 533  
 -----  
 1191.95



RESTRICTED



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

F. N. Richards

From the Private Secretary

3 February 1982

MR. MARK THATCHER

When the question of costs for the search and rescue operation has been settled we shall need to adopt a line to be used in response to public and possible Parliamentary enquiries, a number of which have been received here. I should like to be able to use wording on the lines of that in paragraph 2 below but I should be grateful if you could arrange for this to be looked at and amended as necessary. It is important that it should be entirely accurate and defensible.

B.F.  
10/2/82

I propose that in dealing with such enquiries we should draw on the following:-

"No charges have been made to official funds other than those which would be so charged in the case of assistance for any UK citizen in distress. All other bills which have been raised have been met by Mrs. Thatcher personally.

"The total cost to the UK taxpayer, which consists exclusively of those expenses which the Government would meet in the case of assistance for any UK citizen in distress, amounts to ..... (a figure will have to be inserted later).

"The major part of the expenses of the search and rescue operation was met by the Algerian Government. Mrs. Thatcher has expressed her gratitude for their generosity. The Governments of France and Mali also contributed to the operation at their own expense and similar thanks have been expressed.

"No charge has been made to official funds in regard to the hotel expenses in Tamanrasset of Mr. Denis Thatcher, Mr. Mark Thatcher or the accompanying British officials."

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

RESTRICTED

A. J. COLES



ALGFO 005/31

PP FCC

GPS 405  
RESTRICTED  
FM ALGIERS 311345Z JANUARY 82  
TO PRIORITY FCC  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 46 OF 31 JANUARY

~~SECRET~~ p.s.  
NO DISTRIBUTION

TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED

FOR PRIVATE OFFICE  
FROM MCLEAN  
YOUR TELNO 21 AND ALGIERS TELNO 38: MR MARK THATCHER

1. BEFORE LEAVING TAHAT HOTEL, TAMANRASSET, VICE-CONSUL ASKED RECEPTIONIST FOR BILLS. FOUR WERE PRESENTED:

- (A) FOR MARK THATCHER,
- (B) FOR CHARLOTTE VERNEY,
- (C) FOR HERCULES PILOT (WHOM MR DENIS THATCHER HAD INVITED TO SPEND THE EVENING OF 13 JANUARY AT THE HOTEL),
- (D) FOR QUOTE THE BRITISH DELEGATION UNQUOTE.

2. FIRST THREE WERE FOR ROOM CHARGES ONLY. THE DELEGATION'S BILL, FOR A TOTAL IN EXCESS OF ALGERIAN DINARS ELEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED WAS DIVIDED INTO FOUR SUB-TOTALS, VIZ: ACCOMMODATION (SEVEN ROOMS), MEALS, DRINKS, AND TELEPHONE CALLS. THERE WAS NO BREAKDOWN: NO VOUCHERS, NO SIGNATURES. DRINKS ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT ONE THIRD OF TOTAL COST. MR DENIS THATCHER, AMBASSADOR, VICE CONSUL AND TWO UNITED BISCUITS PILOTS OCCUPIED FIVE ROOMS. THE OTHER TWO WOULD PRESUMABLY BE THOSE USED BY THE GENDARMERIE ESCORTS (ALGIERS TELNO 31, PARAGRAPH 2(A)).



3. MORGAN EXPLAINED THAT, SINCE ALL OFFICIAL EXPENDITURE HAD TO BE PROPERLY ACCOUNTED FOR, HE WOULD LIKE DETAILED STATEMENT. RECEPTIONIST SAID THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE. SINCE REST OF PARTY HAD ALREADY DEPARTED FOR AIRPORT, MORGAN MAY HAVE BETRAYED HIS CONCERN. WHATEVER THE CAUSE, CMDT BENAHMED, THE GENDARMERIE ESCORT WHO WITNESSED THESE EXCHANGES, IMMEDIATELY INTERVENED QUOTE TO SETTLE THIS MATTER UNQUOTE. BENAHMED MADE SEVERAL TELEPHONE CALLS. RECEPTIONIST THEN REAPPEARED TO TELL MORGAN THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO PAY.

4. VICE CONSUL PROTESTED TO BENAHMED, AND AGAIN ON THE PLANE BETWEEN TAMANRASSET AND ALGIERS. AMBASSADOR ALSO RAISED THE PROBLEM WITH COLONEL KHELIL, THE REGIONAL ARMY COMMANDER. BOTH SAID THAT WE SHOULD NOT CONCERN OURSELVES: THE MATTER WAS CLOSED (QUOTE REGLE UNQUOTE).

5. COMMENT. DELEGATION'S BILL PRESUMABLY TOOK IN MEALS CONSUMED BY NUMEROUS MEMBERS OF ALGERIAN GROUPS CONCERNED WITH RESCUE OPERATION AND, ALMOST CERTAINLY, THE LIBERAL DISPENSATION OF DRINKS TO ALL AND SUNDRY AFTER MARK THATCHER'S ARRIVAL AT HOTEL (WHICH AT ONE POINT HOTEL MANAGER DECLARED TO BE QUOTE ON THE HOUSE UNQUOTE). IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW WHETHER ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES INTENDED THROUGHOUT TO MEET THESE COSTS. PRESENTATION OF BILLS TO THE DELEGATION COULD QUITE WELL HAVE BEEN AN ADMINISTRATIVE BUNGLER. BUT ALGERIANS' GENEROSITY IN RELIEVING US OF TOTAL BILL IS CHARACTERISTIC ENOUGH. IT IS THEIR FREQUENT PRACTICE WITH DISTINGUISHED VISITORS, EVEN WITH IMPORTANT BUSINESS DELEGATIONS (E.G. BRITISH ARFOSPACE).

STRACHAN

NNNN

SENT AT 311556Z PKK

CONFIDENTIAL

vb

RM

29 January 1982

Mark Thatcher

As I told you on the telephone yesterday, I should be most grateful if I could receive by Wednesday 3 February at the latest an account of the various costs involved in the operation to locate Mr. Mark Thatcher in the Algerian desert and such advice as you wish to offer as to which of those costs should properly be charged to public funds.

It is important that the deadline be met since we need to deal with a number of enquiries here.

AJC

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

CONFIDENTIAL

B



*Prime Minister*

LINE TO TAKE FOR USE IN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

MARK THATCHER - COST OF OPERATION

Because of the generosity of others - especially the Government of Algeria - the British role was minimal. HMG have not been asked to pay any costs.

The cost of the British contribution will be small but has not yet been fully worked out.

There is no question of any costs being improperly charged to the taxpayer. I shall make sure they are not.

Appropriate Consular assistance is given to any distressed UK citizen. The extent of assistance provided by other governments is entirely a matter for them.

When a friendly Government is devoting so much effort to finding a UK citizen, it is right that the British Ambassador should be on hand as well. Anything less would be downright discourteous.

Were RAF Aircraft Used?

No. But as a precautionary measure an RAF Hercules already in the area on a routine flight to Dakar called at Gibraltar to collect rescue equipment for use in case the Algerians asked for UK assistance. The aircraft continued its planned movement to Dakar but was in the event not required to help in the search.

Cost?

The change in the aircraft's flight plan was made as a precautionary and life-saving measure for which no charge is customarily made.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 January 1982

*Dear Rev.*

Thank you so much for your kind message of 15 January. The period when Mark was lost in Algeria was indeed very worrying but the outcome has been a most happy one. The sympathy and consideration which we received from so many friends were a great help.

My very best wishes,

*Yours*

*R. Muldoon*

---

The Right Honourable R.D. Muldoon, C.H., M.P.

*JR*



PM

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG  
CABINET OFFICE

Thank you for your minute of 14 January  
to Mr Whitmore.

The Prime Minister wrote to President  
Mitterrand on the lines you suggested.

A. J. COLES

18 January, 1982

JSC

SUBJECT



Chastler

JD

AM

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

18 January, 1982.

The Prime Minister invited the Ambassador of Algeria to call this afternoon. Mr. Denis Thatcher and I were present. Mr. Young provided interpretation.

The conversation was mostly of a general nature and related entirely to the operation mounted last week by the Algerian Government to find Mr. Mark Thatcher in the desert. The Prime Minister told the Ambassador that she had particularly wanted to express to him her thanks and those of her husband for everything which the Government of Algeria had done. She told the Ambassador that she had of course already written to the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Algeria. But she and her husband had been so impressed by the speed and effectiveness of the efforts made by the Algerian Authorities that she had wished to leave the Ambassador in no doubt of her gratitude.

The Ambassador said that his Government was extremely satisfied at the outcome. The Algerian Authorities had regarded the operation as a matter of duty; it was the tradition of Algeria that such assistance should be given in circumstances of this kind. The Ambassador also said that his Embassy had been deluged by telephone calls from journalists. He had the impression that they were mounting an "insidious" campaign against the Prime Minister. He wished to make it clear that the Government of Algeria did not wish to be associated with this in any way.

It was not clear precisely what the Ambassador was referring to, but I suppose that some journalists may have attempted to obtain sensational details about the episode, and might have tried to elicit information about the cost.

AJC

Francis Richards, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SD



c. Mr. Whitmore  
Mr. Pattison

PRIME MINISTER

SIR HECTOR LAING

He rang this morning to say that he supposed someone at some point, perhaps in Parliament, might ask what a company 'plane' was doing taking Mr. Thatcher to Algeria. Sir Hector wanted it to be recorded, and if necessary stated publicly, that not a penny of company money had been spent. All the expenses would be met by him personally.

A. J. COLES

15 January 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

COLES

✓ AC 15/1

cc Press Officers

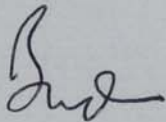
MARK THATCHER

You will recall our discussion with the Prime Minister last evening on the danger that Mark Thatcher will be offered money for his story.

The Prime Minister requested that action should be taken to ensure against this.

I have spoken to Barrie Gill, Mr Thatcher's agent, who has been having a rough time with the Sunday Times. I have agreed with Mr Gill that, in line with instructions last evening, he should tell the Sunday Times and any others who approach:

"There is absolutely no question of Mr Thatcher selling his story."



B. INGHAM

15 January 1982

CONFIDENTIAL



RGRG SW NOW

PROGRAM ALGERE  
22961 PRDRME G

X  
IMMEDIATE  
ADVANCE COPY  
10/15  
(Handwritten initials in a circle)

OO FCO

OO PARIS

OO DAKAR

GPS 100

UNCLASSIFIED

FM ALGIERS 150950Z JANUARY 1982

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 25 OF 15 JANUARY 1982

REPEATED FOR INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS AND DAKAR

PS  
PS/PUS  
Lord N. G. Kennedy  
Hd/NEW AD  
Hd/Cons  
Hd/W AD  
Hd/News  
~~N°10~~ DS

FOR NUMBER 10

ALGIERS TEL NO 24 AND TELECONS WITH COLES AT 141050Z AND WITH  
NUMBER 10 DUTY OFFICER AT 150015Z: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY.

FROM MCLEAN

1. CONTRARY TO PLANS ANNOUNCED IN TUR, RESCUE AIRCRAFT ARRIVED AT TAMANRASSET AT 142200Z, CARRYING MR MARK THATCHER, MADEMOISELLE ANNE-CHARLOTTE VERNAY AND MONSIEUR CLAUDE GARNIER. THIS NEWS WAS PASSED TO US BY MFA.
2. VICE-CONSUL TELEPHONED FROM TAMANRASSET AT 141145Z TO REPORT THAT:-
  - (A) MR MARK THATCHER APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD ORDER (HE HAD HAD A MEAL AND GIVEN A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER BEING GIVEN A PRELIMINARY MEDICAL CHECK).
  - (B) MADEMOISELLE VERNAY APPEARED TO BE EXHAUSTED AND HAD GONE TO HOSPITAL FOR A CHECK UP.
  - (C) THE TWO FRENCH PEOPLE PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO DAKAR IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
  - (D) MR DENIS THATCHER HAD ACCEPTED PRESIDENT CHADLI'S OFFER TO TRANSPORT THE THATCHERS TO LONDON: THEY WOULD BE LEAVING IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PLANE (A GRUMMAN GULFSTREAM 2) AT APPROXIMATELY 150900Z, SETTING DOWN IN ALGIERS AT APPROXIMATELY 151130Z BEFORE CONTINUING TO LONDON.

STRACHAN

Ref. A07144

MR. WHITMORE

---

The Secretary General at the Elysee rang me up this afternoon to confirm the good news that Mark Thatcher had been found in good order. He said that the President was delighted to have the news, and shared the pleasure and relief which he knew the Prime Minister would be feeling. He would not seek to attribute credit for the discovery to any one factor in the operation; but it was clear that he believed that the assistance sent by the French had materially contributed to the success of the operation.

2. I said that the Prime Minister was indeed delighted that Mark had been found in good order, and was deeply grateful to all those who had engaged in the search operation - and not least for the assistance which the President had authorised.


3. The Prime Minister may well already have sent a message to the President; if she has not, I wonder if she would consider sending him a message  
— on the lines of the draft attached.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

14th January, 1982





DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO  
HIS EXCELLENCY MONSIEUR FRANCOIS  
MITTERRAND, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH  
REPUBLIC

I was extremely grateful to you, not only for the messages which you sent expressing your concern at my son's disappearance and your pleasure at his discovery, but also for your generous offer of prompt and effective assistance in the search operation. I believe that that made an important contribution to Mark and his companion being discovered in good order. I shall not forget the speed with which your offer was made and the spirit which prompted it.

Please accept this assurance of my warmest gratitude to you and to the French men and women who, as a result of your initiative, contributed to the search operation and to its happy outcome.

With my best wishes to you for 1982.

MR WHITMORE

MARK AND PRESS

We need to think ahead how we play the next 24 hours.

As of now, we are feeding out blow by blow and awaiting confirmation. This is not now an elegant posture but it is perfectly tenable. But for the 4.00 pm Lobby I need a line, over and above the detailed diary of events and colour material. I propose it should be as follows:

"The Prime Minister heard Mr Thatcher on the ITN news bulletin reporting that he was 90% certain Mark, his crew and car had been located. We now await confirmation and this may not be forthcoming for several hours. You must keep in touch. In the meantime the Prime Minister is carrying out her programme and intends to go to Manchester tomorrow."

After Confirmation

Once Mark's rescue has been confirmed, we should put out a statement from the Prime Minister and I attach a draft at Annex A.

The Prime Minister has agreed not to give press, radio or TV interviews. But they will seek every way telephonically into No.10 and, given that Carol has given interviews, will try to get at the Prime Minister through her.

It would be a help if Carol could keep us posted on approaches and let us know what she is saying so that we sing in tune.

So far as press, radio and tv is concerned today, I shall say there will be no Prime Ministerial interviews; they will have to be satisfied with the on-the-record statement from the Prime Minister. But I suspect that radio programmes, especially from abroad, may well try to break through the shield as they did in Melbourne. You may therefore consider concentrating press calls on to Press Office by giving instructions to switchboard.



Tomorrow

Mr Gaffin will be doing a separate note on arrangements. All I wish to say is that we need to introduce the maximum control, and we need to avoid the Prime Minister giving her reaction time after time. We need to find a location where this can be done most effectively: that is not in Downing Street. If she said anything in London she would still be dogged in Manchester, Consequently, Mr Gaffin is trying to find a way of coping in Manchester which minimises the amount of trouble for the PM.

In Africa

We need to consider what advice we should give to Mr Thatcher and Mark in Algeria. This is difficult since we do not know any details or circumstances. But what is clear is that there is only one way to deal with the issue - for Mark and Mr Thatcher to hold a press conference, filmed without separate BBC, ITN, IRN interviews, at which one story comes out.

Second, it is absolutely crucial in view of the expense run up in the search that Mark resists every blandishment on the part of any individual newspaper to buy up his story. He must show no partiality, but deal even handedly with all in open press conference, so that no one can level charges against him.

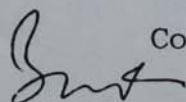
Third, it is essential that any telephone calls as between Mark and Prime Minister are conducted in absolute privacy.

Back in London

Whatever the access in Africa, the British media will give saturation coverage to the return home of Mark and Mr Thatcher. Again there is much to be said for killing that interest with a press conference at the airport on arrival, which we could organise.

We shall need to give thought to the Prime Minister's welcome. The press would give their right arms for a reunion picture. They should be denied it and the reunion should be behind closed doors either here or at Chequers?

Could we discuss?



B. INGHAM

14 January 1990

DRAFT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

I am very relieved and thankful to have received confirmation that Mark, his co-driver and crew are safe and well. It has been an ordeal for all of us and not least for Charlotte Verney's elderly mother in France.

I ~~sh~~ould like to thank the <sup>Mali</sup> ~~Algerian~~ and French Governments <sup>for all they have done to help</sup> who have clearly made tremendous efforts to find Mark and his colleagues. My husband ~~is~~ enormously impressed with the search and rescue operation they mounted. <sup>They have been wonderful.</sup>

We are also deeply grateful for and touched by the many expressions of support and good wishes and the large number of offers of help which have poured into .10 Downing Street these last few days. They have warmed <sup>our</sup> ~~my~~ hearts and been of great comfort.

None all I should like to express my <sup>deepest</sup> ~~gratitude~~ gratitude to the Government of Algeria for all they have done.



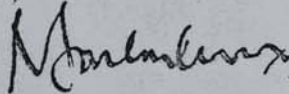
PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

PS/PUS

cc: Private Secretary

MR MARK THATCHER

1. I attach a minute recording action taken by the FCO in support of the search for Mr M Thatcher up to noon today. It was written before the unconfirmed reports that Mr Thatcher has been spotted. But since these may take some time to confirm, I see merit in issuing the report as it stands, to be supplemented later if necessary.
2. It is clearly right for NENAD to have been placed in charge of this operation, and that this should continue for its duration. I do not believe that any more elaborate structure to deal with the situation is necessary, beyond the measures referred to in paragraph 10 of the report. It is quite clear to me that Mr Howarth has done a very professional job in coordinating operations in the last two days.



Lord N Gordon Lennox

14 January 1982



CONFIDENTIAL

PS/PUS

cc: Private Secretary  
PS/LPS  
PS/Mr Hurd  
Mr Wright  
Mr J Moberly

Mr Miles o.r.  
WAD  
Defence Dept  
Consular Dept  
News Dept  
Mr Harding (DSS MOD)

MR MARK THATCHER

1. This minute records action taken by the FCO (and the MOD) in support of the efforts to find Mr M Thatcher. It represents the situation at noon today, 14 January. There have since been further developments, reported to those concerned separately.
2. The last confirmed sighting of Mr M Thatcher was by Swiss rally driver Michel Bosi on Friday, 8 January at approximately 70 kms North East of Timeiaouine. Mr Thatcher's car had reportedly broken down (reports of the cause and of whether or not there is a mechanic in addition to Mr Thatcher's co-driver are conflicting). According to the rally search supervisor, Mr Sabine, four search vehicles reached the point where Mr Bosi had left Mr Thatcher on Tuesday, 12 January, but the car was no longer there. There have been no confirmed sightings since.
3. Unconfirmed reports include:
  - (a) Two 'missing' persons had been recovered (AFP, 13 January)
  - (b) Mr Thatcher's car and co-driver located, but Mr Thatcher himself missing (Times Correspondent Paris, 13 January).
  - (c) Vehicle sought and persons answering to description of Mr Thatcher and companions crossed into Mali on 12 January via Irharen en route towards Gao. (Unspecified officials at the Algerian/Mali frontier, 13 January).
  - (d) There is no evidence (see press speculation) that the Polisario or the Libyans are involved in Mr Thatcher's disappearance.
4. Mr Denis Thatcher, accompanied by HM Ambassador Algiers, our Vice-Consul, and an Algerian Gendarmerie liaison officer are in Tamanrasset where the Algerian search and rescue operation is based. The Algerians have undertaken to set up a telex link from Tamanrasset to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Algiers to which Mr D Thatcher and HMA would have access.

/5.

CONFIDENTIAL



5. The Algerians, French and Malian authorities are all cooperating fully.

(a) The Algerians have committed four aircraft (one equipped for aerial survey) and one helicopter with medical equipment and supplies on board, in addition to land forces.

(b) The French have three aircraft based in Gao searching the area between Bamako and Gao and between Gao and the Algerian frontier. The French are in touch with the Algerian authorities in order to allow French aircraft to conduct searches in Algeria.

(c) The French Charge d'Affaires in Bamako has conveyed HMG's concern to the Malian Foreign Minister, who has promised to take early action. It has since been confirmed that the Governor of Gao and his authorities have been alerted and are joining in the search.

(d) The rally organisers are themselves searching.

6. Our other personnel in the area (apart from our posts in Dakar and Algiers) are as follows: Miss Coombe, Second Secretary, Chancery, Dakar, is with one of the French aircraft at Gao, and Mr Richard White, also of the Embassy in Dakar, should now be in Bamako in order to keep in close touch with the Malian and French authorities there.

7. The MOD have already diverted an RAF Hercules en route from UK to Dakar (on routine business), to Gibraltar where it picked up rescue packs. The MOD are now sending the aircraft on to Dakar where it will stand by in case of need. The MOD are also consulting No 10 on the possibility of using a Canberra aircraft for aerial reconnaissance over the area. The MOD also considered, but for operational reasons, rejected the use of a Nimrod. But no decision has been taken by No 10 on whether the Hercules or the Canberra should be used. The MOD have pointed out that if either of the aircraft are used in response to an Algerian or Malian request for assistance, no costs will have to be charged.

8. We consulted HM Embassies in Algiers and Dakar on 13 January on likely Algerian and Malian reactions to a UK offer to help. Algiers reported that it would be best to await the scale and effectiveness of Algerian operations before making an offer. Dakar thought it best to leave efforts to the French for 24 hours and only consider UK assistance if it became clear that Mr Thatcher was not in the area now being searched.

9. For the present it is not clear what further can be done except to await the results of today's search and decide in the light of developments whether to make an offer of assistance to Algeria and Mali.

/10.

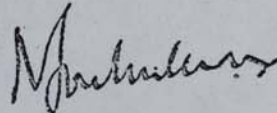


CONFIDENTIAL

3

10. A group of interested FCO Departments (NENAD, WAD, Consular, News and Defence Departments) met under Lord N Gordon Lennox (AUSS) this morning to discuss this report, which has been drafted by Mr Howarth (NENAD). They agreed that NENAD would remain operationally in charge of this matter within the FCO, reporting regularly to Lord N Gordon Lennox who would convene further interdepartmental meetings as necessary. No more elaborate structure seems at present needed. The meeting also discussed and approved guidance for News Department. They agreed that HM Ambassador in Dakar, at present in Banjul, should be asked to return to Dakar as soon as possible.

11. Since the above was drafted, there have been unconfirmed reports that Mr M Thatcher has been found.



Lord N Gordon Lennox

14 January 1982

CONFIDENTIAL



HL

14 January 1982

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 13 January, containing a message from the Prime Minister of India about the situation of Mrs. Thatcher's son. The Prime Minister was most grateful for this kind message and thanks you too for your own sympathetic comments.

JOHN COLES

Mr. Swraj Paul

oe.

HL

14 January 1982

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank  
you for your kind telegram.

JOHN COLES

Mr. Amir Usman

R



Telegram

for enquiries dial the number  
shown in your dialling instructions

British TELECOM

dial the number  
dialling instructions

889113 PO SW G  
299992 PO TS G  
FB5 LONDON T 27/26 14 1128 S/W

MRS MARGARET THATCHER  
10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDONSW1

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU MADAM PRIME MINISTER  
MR AMIR USMAN CHARGE-D'AFFAIRS EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN  
36 LOWNDES SQUARE LONDONSW1

COL 10 SW1 36 SW1

299992 PO TS G  
889113 PO SW G

*Handwritten mark*



TELECOM for enquiries dial the number  
shown in your dialling instructions

T 1291 Telegram for enquiries dial the number  
shown in your dialling instructions

FILE

VLS

PRIME MINISTER

Sir Hector Laing's PA rang this morning to convey the following message from Mr. Thatcher to the Prime Minister. The message was passed from Sir Hector Laing's aircraft through British Airways channels. It states:

"Very hopeful sighting. Not quite certain. Will know for certain 1900 hours. Love."

I have asked that the time (1900 hours) be checked since it seems a little odd. But we cannot communicate direct with the aircraft and it may be some time before this can be established. It appears that Sir Hector's aircraft is involved in the search.

J. COLES

14 January 1982



Group/Class..... PREM 19  
Piece..... 893

Manuscript note from Coles  
to Prime Minister (undated,  
but assumed to be  
14 January 1982)

Paper extracted and  
temporarily retained  
under Section 3(4)  
pending completion of  
review.

(date)..... 18 October 2012

(Signed)..... Wayland

Prime Minister

Mrs. Gandhi sent you a message

today:-

" My thoughts are with you both  
in your anxiety."

A.J.C.  $\frac{14}{1}$



PRIME MINISTER

As requested, I spoke this morning on your behalf to the mother of Charlotte Verney. She is in her 80s and lives with her husband in Le Mans.

I said that you were of course following the events in Algeria very closely and that you wanted Madame Verney to know that you were thinking not only of your son but also of her daughter. You wished me to express your sympathy to Madame Verney at this difficult time. I added that Mr. Thatcher had left for Algeria yesterday and was now in the region of the search. Madame Verney asked whether he had sent any news. I said he had been impressed by the search operation which had been remounted this morning.

Madame Verney was clearly moved by your message. Agree that Mr. Ingham might tell the Press that you have sent a message to the mother of Charlotte and made it clear that she is much in your thoughts?

*P.D.  
agreed.  
A.J.W.*

*A.P.C. 14/1*

14 January 1982

copies to:

PS/PUS A J Coles Esq  
 Sir L Allinson No 10 Downing St  
 Lord N Gordon Lennox  
 Mr Moberly  
 Consular Dept  
 News Dept  
 WAD

Mr Howarth, NENADMr Mark Thatcher

The Algerian Foreign Minister telephoned this office at 1300 today. I explained that Lord Carrington was on his way to Brussels.

M. Benyahia said that an Algerian military aircraft had just located Mr Mark Thatcher and his two companions. The aircraft had made a low pass over their car, which was 400 kilometres south of Tamanrasset. The party had erected a tent. I enquired about their condition. M. Benyahia said that they had all signalled to the aircraft.

M. Benyahia said that the Algerians were now sending a helicopter carrying a landrover in order to recover the party. The helicopter would have to fly 300 kilometres to land the landrover, which would then have to make a further 100 kilometre journey. I asked how long this would take. He thought two to three hours, but this may have been a guess off the top of his head. He said that the party would be taken back to Tamanrasset by the same route.

I promised to inform No 10 immediately of this news, and I have of course done so. I said that the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary had of course personally followed with close attention the search operation mounted by the Algerian Government, and were extremely grateful for everything the Algerians had done. I also thanked the Foreign Minister warmly for taking the trouble to telephone the news himself and assured him that it would be received with the greatest of pleasure.

You have received a similar story from our Embassy in Algiers, who in turn have heard from HM Ambassador at Tamanrasset. The Ambassador has rightly pointed out that until the identities of the people who waved to the search aircraft are confirmed, we should exercise some caution: but that on the whole the signs are good.

M. Grenier of the French Embassy telephoned Sir Len Allinson at about the same time to pass on the same story. It has now been carried by the news media, including the BBC radio news at 1335.

As soon as the identities of the party are confirmed, we should send appropriate messages of thanks. I shall naturally consult No 10 about this: but in addition to those sent by the Prime Minister, I am sure that Lord Carrington will wish to send a personal message to M. Benyahia. We must also not forget the other Governments which have assisted, including the French, Malian and possibly Senegalese.

I hope it would not be premature to add a word of thanks to you for your considerable efforts in this matter over the past two days.

*R M J Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)

14 January 1982



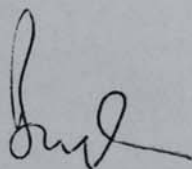
Private Secretaries  
Press Officers

STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED FROM THE PRIME MINISTER ON CONFIRMATION OF  
MARK'S SAFETY.

I am very relieved and thankful to have received confirmation that Mark, his co-driver and crew, are safe and well. It has been an ordeal for all of us, and not least for Charlotte Verney's elderly mother in France.

I should like to express my deepest gratitude to the Government of Algeria for everything they have done to find Mark and his colleagues. My husband was enormously impressed with the search and rescue operation they mounted. They have been wonderful. I should also like to thank the Governments of France and Mali for all the help they, too, have given so willingly and so generously.

We are also deeply grateful for and touched by the many expressions of support and good wishes and the large number of offers of help which have poured into 10 Downing Street these last few days. They have warmed our hearts and been of great comfort.



B. INGHAM

14 January 1982

GPS 40  
UNCLASSIFIED  
FM ALGIERS 14120Z JANUARY 1982  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 24 OF 14 JANUARY 1982  
REPEATED FOR INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS  
REPEATED FOR INFO PRIORITY DAKAR

FOR NUMBER 10  
ALGIERS TEL NO 23: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY  
FROM MCLEAN.

1. MFA DUTY OFFICER TELEPHONED AT 2140Z TO CONFIRM THAT MR  
MARK THATCHER AND HIS COLLEAGUES WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT ARRIVE  
AT TAMANRASSET THIS EVENING BUT BE TAKEN THERE TOMORROW MORNING  
BY ALGERIAN AIR FORCE PLANE. HE COULD NOT ADVISE ETA.

STRACHAN

LIMITED  
NENAD  
WAD  
CRD  
PCD  
CONS. D  
DEF. D  
NEWS. D  
PS  
PS/LPS  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/PUS  
MR WRIGHT  
MR MOBERLY  
SIR L ALLINSON  
LORD N.G. LENNOX

COPIES TO :  
PS / N° 10 DOWNING ST



GPS 200  
UNCLASSIFIED  
FM ALGIERS 142035Z JANUARY 1982  
TO FLASH FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 23 OF 14 JANUARY 1982  
AND TO FLASH PARIS AND DAKAR

FOR NUMBER 10  
ALGIERS TEL NO 22 AND TELECON WITH COLES AT 141920Z: PARIS-  
DAKAR RALLY.  
FROM MCLEAN

1. VICE-CONSUL HAS TELEPHONED FROM GENDARMERIE HEADQUARTERS IN TAMRANSSET TO AMPLIFY REPORT IN MY TUR.
2. HE CONFIRMED THAT MR MARK THATCHER AND HIS TWO COMPANIONS HAD BEEN PICKED UP BY ALGERIAN FRONTIER POLICE AND TAKEN BY LANDROVER TO TIMEIAQUINE. THE THREE WERE ALL SAID TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH.
3. IT SEEMS THAT, REMAINING UNAWARE THROUGH LACK OF RADIO CONTACT OF PLANS SET OUT IN ALGIERS TEL NO 21, RESCUERS MADE CONTACT IN TIMEIAQUINE WITH RALLY ORGANISER, SABINE, WHO OFFERED TO FLY PARTY IN HIS AIRCRAFT TO TISSALIT (MALI), AND HAVING REFUELLED THERE TO FLY TO TAMANRASSET. SINCE TISSALIT SEEMED UNLIKELY TO HAVE NIGHT EQUIPMENT, MORGAN THOUGHT IT PROBABLE THAT MR THATCHER WOULD NOT ARRIVE AT TAMANRASSET UNTIL MORNING OF 15 JANUARY. (SINCE THIS REPORT, PARIS-BASED PRESS ENQUIRIES HAVE BEEN ASSURING US THAT SABINE ORGANISATION HAS ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO FLY PARTY TO TIMBUKTU.)
4. MR DENIS THATCHER AND AMBASSADOR HAD RETURNED TO HOTEL TAHAT AT TAMANRASSET WHERE MR THATCHER PLANNED TO TELEPHONE NO 10 WITH LATEST NEWS. HE HAD COMMENTED THAT ALGERIANS HAD DONE A WONDERFUL JOB. HE AND AMBASSADOR HAD FLOWN IN HERCULES OVER AREA WHERE SIGHTING WAS MADE.
5. MR MARK THATCHER HAD BEEN TOLD THAT HIS FATHER WAS WAITING IN TAMANRASSET.
6. PRESIDENT CHADLI HAD SENT HIS PERSONAL PLANE TO TAMANRASSET, AND HAD OFFERED TO FLY THE GROUP HOME.

STRACHAN

LIMITED  
NENAD  
WAD  
CRD  
PCD  
CONS D  
DEF. D  
NEWS D  
PS  
PS/LPS

PS/MR HURD  
PS/PUS  
MR WRIGHT  
MR MOBERLY  
SIR L. ALLINSON  
LORD N.G. LENNOX

COPIES TO  
PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST



X-14

1914

ADVANCE COPY

PS NOT O ~~Drum~~ ST.

PRODRUM ALGER  
24961 PRDRME G

ZZ FCO

ZZ PARIDS

ZZ DAKAR

PS  
PS/UPS  
PS/MR HORD  
PS/PUS  
MR WRIGHT  
Sri L. ANAND  
MR MOTHERBY  
LORD N G. LENTY  
HD NEMAD  
HD WAD  
HD WOTD  
HD NEMAD

FLASH

RC  
(LAL)

GPS 40  
UNCLASSIFIED  
FM ALGIERS 141855Z JANUARY 1982  
TO FLASH FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 22 OF 14 JANUARY 1982  
AND TO FLASH PARIS AND DAKAR

FOR NUMBER 10  
ALGIERS TEL NO 21 AND TELECON WITH WHITMORE AT 1825Z: PARIS-DAKAR RAK  
FROM MCLEAN

1. MFA DUTY OFFICER TELEPHONED AT 1820Z TO SAY THAT MR MARK  
THATCHER AND TZO COMPANIONS WERE SAFE AND BEING AIRLIFTED TO  
TAMRANSSET. HE COULD NOT GIVE FURTHER DETAILS OR ESTIMATE ARRIVAL  
TIME BUT PROMISED FURTHER INFORMATION AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

STRACHAN

NNNN

CCN PARA 1 2ND LINE THIRD WORD SHOULD READ TWO NOT TZO  
COMPANIONS. ERROR REGRETTED.

PRODRUM ALGERE  
24961 PRDRME G



PRODRON ALGERE  
24962 PRDRME GV ALGERE  
PRODRON ALGERE  
24962 PRDRME GZZ FCO

ADVANCE COPY

ZZ PARIS

ZZ DAKAR

GPS 100  
UNCLASSIFIED  
FM ALGIERS 141330Z JANUARY 1982  
TO FLASH FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 21 OF 14 JANUARY 1982  
AND TO FLASH PARIS AND DAKAR

15  
X

Ad DENAD, WAD, CD  
PCD, Consular Dept,  
Defence Dept, News Dept  
Ps, Ps/Les, Ps/Mr. Hurd  
Ps/PoS, Mr. Wright  
Mr. Mobley,  
Sir. L. Allinson  
Lt W.G. Lennox.

~~No~~ to Downing St.

FOR NUMBER 10  
ALGIERS TEL NO 20 AND TELECON ZITH COLES AT 1315Z: PARIS-DAKAR  
RALLY.  
FROM MCLEAN

1. VICE-CONSUL TELEPHONED FROM TAMANRASSET AT 1250Z.
2. ALGERIAN HERCULES PILOT, RETURNING TO BASE, HAD REPORTED POSITIVE SITING OF WHITE PEUGEOT 504 AND OF FOUR PEOPLE, ONE OF THEM FEMALE, AT OUED TAOUNDART, MAP REFERENCE N 20324, E 002323.
3. GENDARMERIE LANDROVER HAD REACHED THE SITE BUT WAS OUT OF RADIO CONTACT. A HELICOPTER WAS NOW TRANSPORTING A SECOND LANDROVER WHICH WOULD BE DROPPED TO DRIVE THE LAST 120 KILOMETRES, BEFORE RETURNING TO HELICOPTER WITH THE RESCUED PARTY. EARLIEST THEY COULD BE EXPECTED BACK IN TAMANRASSET WAS 1800Z.
4. AMBASSADOR HAS EMPHASISED THAT THIS SITING, WHILST ENCOURAGING, CANNOT YET BE SAID WITH CERTAINTY TO BE OF MR MARK THATCHER'S PARTY. WE ARE TAKING THIS LINE WITH THE PRESS.
5. MORGAN SAID THAT OTHER AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN SEARCH HAD NOT YET RETURNED TO BASE TO MAKE THEIR REPORTS.

STRACHAN

NNNN  
PRODRON ALGERE  
24962 PRDRME GO

FLASH

ADVANCE COPY

NEWS

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CRS

ICH

Cous D

Dels

Nelos D

Ps

Ps Lys

Ps Mr Howard

Ps Mrs

Mr Walker

Mr ...

Sir L. Allinson

Lord Al-G. Lennox

~~Ps. No 10, D, S~~

X M  
12/1

PRODRON ALGERE  
24961 PRDRME G

ZZ FCO

ZZ PARIS

ZZ DAKAR

GPS 100

UNCLASSIFIED

FM ALGIERS 141245Z JANUARY 82

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 20 OF 14 JANUARY 1982

AND TO FLASH PARIS AND DAKAR

FOR NUMBER 10

ALGIERS TEL NO 19; PARIS-DAKAR RALLY

FROM MCLEAN

1. ABED TELEPHONED AT 1225Z TO SAY THAT MFA HAD RECEIVED FIRST REPORTS FROM SEARCHES OF A SITING IN REGION OF TIRZAITINE (PHOENETIC). HE HAD NO DETAILS AS TO WHAT OR WHOM HAD BEEN SEEN BUT HAD BEEN TOLD TO EXPECT FURTHER INFORMATION WITHIN ABOUT ONE HOUR.

2. TIRZAITINE COULD BE TIN ZAOUATEN ON MALI BORDER AT APPROX 22.0N 3.0E, SOME 60 MILES SE OF TIMEIAOUIE.

3. ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE (APS) HAS SIMULTANEOUSLY ISSUED A REPORT OF SITING. THIS HAS BEEN PICKED UP BY THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES.

4. HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO REACH YOU BY TELEPHONE.

STRACHAN



IMMEDIATE

X-15

ADVANCE COPY

14d NENAS

- WAD

- CRB

- PCH

- Cous D

- Del D

- News D

Ps

Ps LWS

Ps Mr Howard

Ps King

Mr Walker

Mr M. G. Lennox

Sir L. Wilkinson

Lead N-G Lennox

~~Ps~~ No 10. D.S

ALGFO 003/14

OO FCO

OO PARIS

OO DAKAR

GPS 50

UNCLASSIFIED

FM ALGIERS 141135Z JANUARY 1982

TELEGRAM NUMBER 19 OF 14 JANUARY 1982

REPEATED FOR INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS AND DAKAR

FOR NUMBER 10

ALGIERS TEL NO 18; PARIS-DAKAR RALLY

FROM MCLEAN

1. NO WORD YET FROM TAMANRASSET.

2. I SPOKE TO BENOUNICHE AT 1120Z. NO NEWS.

3. ALL ALGERIAN OFFICES HAVE NOW CLOSED FOR MUSLIM WEEKEND. BENOUNICHE ASSURED ME THAT MFA DUTY STAFF WERE BRIEFED TO INFORM EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY OF ANY NEW DEVELOPMENT. HE ALSO GAVE ME HIS HOME TELEPHONE NUMBERS.

STRACHAN

NNNN

SENT AT 141150Z NMG/HH

IMMEDIATE

X-7

ADVANCE COPY

HM of NENAD

• WAD

- bands

" News

Ps

Ps/Pus

Lord N.G. Lennox

~~Ps~~/No to D.S

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 141200Z

FM DAKAR 141121Z JAN 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 17 OF 14 JANUARY

AND TO PARIS ALGIERS

FOR NO 10

MY TELNO 15: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY

1. HM CONSUL HAD FURTHER CONVERSATION THIS MORNING WITH BOSI AND HIS CO-DRIVER. THEY SAID IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT MARK THATCHER COULD HAVE REPAIRED HIS CAR AND CONTINUED TOWARDS GAO (PARIS TELNO 43), GIVEN THAT THE REAR AXLE APPEARED TO BE BROKEN. THEY WERE BOTH INSISTENT THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE EXACT AREA IN A LIGHT SPOTTER PLANE AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO RETURN THERE IF GIVEN TRANSPORT. THEY ARE OTHERWISE PLANNING TO LEAVE BAMAKO FOR DAKAR TOMORROW.

2. IF YOU THINK THIS WORTH PURSUING, THE TWO MIGHT BEST BE FLOWN TO GAO BY ONE OF THE FRENCH MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND FROM THERE ACROSS THE BORDER BY THE RALLY'S OWN LIGHT AIRCRAFT. FOR BOTH OPERATIONS AGREEMENT/INSTRUCTIONS WILL HAVE TO BE SENT FROM PARIS.

FCO PSE PASS.

SQUIRE



ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

[ Ltd ]

X15

HD AERONAUT, WAD, CRD, PCD, WED  
Consular Dept, Defence Dept,  
News Dept, PS, PS/LPS,  
PS/MR. HUD, MR. MOSBY  
Sir L. Allinson,  
Mr. Wright.  
Ed J. Gardner [enact]

CONFIDENTIAL  
DESKBY 141100Z  
FM DAKAR 141010Z JAN 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 16 OF 14 JANUARY  
INFO IMMEDIATE ALGIERS PARIS

PARIS TELNO 44: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY

1. THERE IS NO TELEPHONE CONTACT AT PRESENT BETWEEN DAKAR AND  
GAO. OPERATION CENTRE IN PARIS IS THEREFORE ONLY SURE WAY OF  
RECEIVING REGULAR REPORTS.  
FCO PSE PASS.

No to Downing  
St.

SQUIRE

NNNN

GRS 110  
UNCLASSIFIED  
DESKBY 141000Z  
FM DAKAR 140900Z JAN 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 15 OF 14 JANUARY  
INFO IMMEDIATE ALGIERS AND PARIS

FOR COLES, PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

YOUR TELNO 4: SWISS RALLY DRIVER

1. HM CONSUL SPOKE TO MICHEL BOSI IN BAMAKO LAST NIGHT.  
BOSI HAS WITHDRAWN FROM RACE.

2. HIS STORY CONFIRMS WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY LEARNT FROM OTHER  
SOURCES. HE MET UP WITH MARK THATCHER LAST FRIDAY AFTERNOON  
AND THEY DROVE TOGETHER FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS WITH SEVERAL  
OTHER CARS UNTIL MR THATCHER'S CAR BROKE DOWN. BOSI OFFERED  
TO TAKE HIM AND HIS COMPANIONS ON TO NEXT STAGING POINT BUT  
HE DECLINED THE OFFER SAYING THAT HE WISHED TO REPAIR HIS CAR  
AND CONTINUE IN THE RALLY. BOSI DID NOT KNOW HOW MUCH FOOD  
OR WATER MR THATCHER HAD WITH HIM BUT LEFT 5 LITRES. HE  
ESTIMATED THE AREA TO BE APPROXIMATELY 70 KMS NORTH EAST OF  
TIMEIAQUINE.

3. SEARCH ORGANISERS ARE IN POSSESSION OF THIS INFORMATION.

SQUIRE

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

LIMITED  
NENAD  
WAD  
CONS D  
NEWS D  
PS  
PS/PUS



SUBJECT

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 7/82

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN: 14 JANUARY 1982

cc Master  
ops

✓ cc Rhyne

P.A.

MR 14.

PM

PM: Ron, my sympathy about the terrible crash in Washington.

R: Yes, it is a great tragedy, but I was calling you to tell you that Nancy and I feel so deeply - you are in our thoughts and prayers, you and Dennis - about Mark.

PM: That's very kind of you, and I'm deeply grateful. It's been a long time, and we've had a lot of confused rumours and reports, but Dennis is out there now, and the Algerians have mounted a very big search today, and we just believe - I've just had news 2 minutes ago that they believe they've made a hopeful sighting. We daren't believe anything till they've actually found him.

R: That's wonderful to hear. We'll keep on praying.

PM: There's a little bit of optimism, and we're just holding onto that at the moment.

R: I know that he's an experienced outdoorsman, so I know that he'll be able to take care of himself.

PM: I know, but the prayers do help. Ron, it's very kind of you and Nancy, and so much appreciated, and our love and best wishes to you and to all of those people who're also desperately worried about the crash you've had.

R: Alright. We will. Our hearts are with you.

PM: Thank you very much, and thank you for 'phoning Ron.  
Love to Nancy.

R: Alright.

PM: Thank you. God bless. Goodbye.

14.1.82

REUTERS REPORT AT 1250

An Algerian rescue team today found Mark Thatcher who has been missing for 6 days in the Sahara. The official Algerian News Agency APS reported. Thatcher, 28, was found safe and sound at the settlement of Tindert about 400 kilometers (250 miles) from the town of Tamanrasset.

In its official despatch monitored in Paris APS gave no word about the fate of co-driver Verney and the mechanic. APS said a helicopter had left Tamanrasset airfield to collect Mr. Thatcher. Mr. Thatcher's father flew to the oasis town yesterday to join the search.



NNNN  
UN 8  
CK 1522 NNNN

UKP589 EPA036

1523 :NIGHTLEAD THATCHER:

PARIS, JAN 14, REUTER -- RALLY DRIVER MARK THATCHER, 28, SON OF BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER, WAS FOUND ALIVE TODAY WITH HIS FRENCH CO-DRIVER AND MECHANIC AFTER BEING MISSING SIX DAYS IN THE SAHARA DESERT, THE OFFICIAL ALGERIAN NEWS AGENCY APS REPORTED.

THE AGENCY SAID AN ALGERIAN AIR FORCE PLANE SEARCHING FOR THATCHER, CO-DRIVER ANNE-CHARLOTTE VERNEY AND MECHANIC JEAN GARNIER SPOTTED THEIR CAR AND THE TRIO STANDING BY A TENT NEAR THE SETTLEMENT OF TINDERT AROUND NOON.

IN PARIS, A SPOKESWOMAN FOR THE ORGANISERS OF THE PARIS-DAKAR MOTOR RALLY SAID THEY HAD NOT YET RECEIVED INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION THAT THE THATCHER CAR, A WHITE PEUGEOT, HAD BEEN FOUND.

THE TIMBUCTOO CORRESPONDENT OF RADIO MALI ALSO REPORTED THE THREE HAD BEEN FOUND ALIVE AND WELL.

APS SAID AN ALGERIAN AIR FORCE PLANE WAS FLYING THE THREE BACK TO THE OASIS TOWN OF TAMANRASSET FROM TINDERT, ABOUT 400 KM (250 MILES) TO THE SOUTHWEST.

THATCHER IS A MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT WHO SPENDS HIS SPARE TIME COMPETING IN MOTOR SPORTS. MISS VERNEY, 28, IS A FOUR-TIME FRENCH WOMENS MOTOR-RACING CHAMPION.

MORE CJB/IHM/WS

14.1.81



RESTRICTED

GPS 100

RESTRICTED

FM ALGIERS 140920Z JANUARY 1982

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 18 OF 14 JANUARY 1982

AND TO IMMEDIATE PARIS, DAKAR

FOR NUMBER 10

ALGIERS TEL NO 17, FCO TEL NO 8, AND TELECONS WITH WHITMORE  
AND COLES: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY.  
FROM MCLEAN.

1. ABED(MFA), DEPUTY TO BENOUNICHE, WHO HAD TELEPHONED AT  
132130Z TO SAY THAT THERE WERE NO FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, REPEATED  
THIS MESSAGE THIS MORNING AT 0845Z. HE CONFIRMED THAT  
INTENSIFIED EFFORTS HAD RESUMED AT FIRST LIGHT.

2. I SPOKE TO AMBASSADOR IN TAMANRASSET LATE LAST NIGHT ABOUT  
PROPOSAL IN FCO TUR. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST TO WITNESS  
THE SCALE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS MORNING'S OPERATIONS  
(ALGERIANS HAD NOW COMMITTED FIVE AIRCRAFT AND TWO HELICOPTERS,  
AS WELL AS TWENTY VEHICLES) BEFORE MAKING AN OFFER WHICH RAN  
RISK OF GIVING OFFENCE. HE AND MR THATCHER WOULD BE GOING TO  
THE AIR BASE.

STRACHAN

LIMITED  
NENAD  
WAD  
CRD  
PCD  
CONS D  
DEF D  
NEWS D  
PS  
PS|LPS  
PS|MRHURD  
PS|PUS  
MRWRIGHT  
MRMOBEALY  
SIR L ALLINSON  
LORD N G LENNOX

RESTRICTED



RESTRICTED

Mr. Coles

GRS 55  
RESTRICTED  
FM AMMAN 140935Z JAN 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 21 OF 14 JAN 82

MESSAGE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

1. KING HUSSEIN TELEPHONED ME THIS MORNING TO ASK THAT I SHOULD PASS ON HIS EXTREME CONCERN AND SYMPATHY TO THE PRIME MINISTER CONCERNING MR MARK THATCHER AND HOW MUCH HE HOPED THAT THE SEARCH FOR HIM WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL

URWICK

COPIES SENT TO  
No. 10 DOWNING STREET

LIMITED  
NENAD  
NEWS .D  
MR ROBERT  
LORD N.G. LENNOX

RESTRICTED

Caparo House  
103 Baker Street, London W1M 1FD  
Telephone: 01-486 1417. Telex: 8811343

SP/EBA/CH

13 January 1982

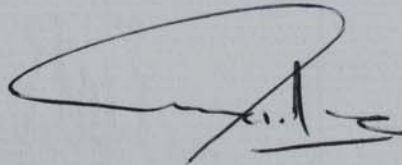
*Hydar Prami Mustafa,*

I was talking to New Delhi this morning and Mrs Gandhi was concerned for the safety of your son, Mark, and very much hopes that everything will soon turn out satisfactorily.

She especially requested me to convey her feelings to you and, may I join in the same.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely



Swraj Paul

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher, MP  
The Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
Whitehall  
London SW1



ADVANCE COPY

X

PAFO 04/13

OO FCO DESKBY 131130Z

OO DAKAR DESKBY 131130Z

OO ALGIERS DESKBY 131130Z

GRS 100

DESKBY 131130Z TO ALL

UNCLASSIFIED

FM PARIS 131035Z JAN 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 40 OF 13 JAN 82

AND TO IMMEDIATE DAKAR AND ALGIERS

FOR NUMBER 10

IMMEDIATE

X14

Mr. Wright

Hd RENAD,

Hd WAD

Hd CRD

Hd PCD, News Dept

PS, PS/LPS,

PS/mr. Hurd,

PS/POS

Mr. Moberly

Sic. C. Alligier

No. 10 Downing St.

Consular Dept

Defence Dept

MY TELNO 39 AND YOUR TELNO 7 TO ALGIERS: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY

1. AS REPORTED BY TELEPHONE TO WHITMORE (NO 10) THE QUAI D'ORSAY DUTY OFFICER TELEPHONED THE EMBASSY LATE YESTERDAY EVENING TO REPORT, IN RESPONSE TO OUR REPRESENTATIONS, THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO THE FRENCH AMBASSADORS IN BAMAKO AND ALGIERS. THE AMBASSADOR IN BAMAKO WOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION WITH THE MALI AUTHORITIES. THE AMBASSADOR IN ALGIERS WOULD APPROACH HM AMBASSADOR THERE TO DISCUSS WHAT ASSISTANCE THE FRENCH EMBASSY MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE.

2. WE SHALL OF COURSE REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE RALLY PRESS OFFICE AND REPORT ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

HIBBERT

NNNN

SENT AT 131047Z SM/AH

UNCLASSIFIED

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ZZ DAKAR  
GRS  
UNCLASSIFIED  
FM F C O 131330Z JAN 82  
TO FLASH DAKAR  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 004 OF 13 JANUARY  
AND TO FLASH ALGIERS AND IMMEDIATE PARIS.

FROM COLES, PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, 10 DOWNING STREET.

1. TODAY'S BRITISH PRESS REPORTS A RADIO INTERVIEW GIVEN SOMEWHERE IN WEST AFRICA YESTERDAY BY A SWISS RALLY DRIVER CALLED MICHEL BOSI. HE APPARENTLY STATED THAT HE HAD SEEN MARK THATCHER AND HIS CO-DRIVER LAST FRIDAY AND THAT THEY HAD STRAYED FROM THE MAIN TRACK AFTER THE BACK AXLE OF THE CAR HAD BROKEN.

2. THE BRITISH NEWSPAPERS WHO PRINT THIS STORY HAVE SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO TELL US WHERE BOSI IS NOW. IF, BY ANY CHANCE HE IS IN DAKAR, PLEASE SPEAK TO HIM AND TRY TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY WHERE HE SAW MR THATCHER.

CARRINGTON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST.]

NNNN

LIMITED  
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CONSULAR D  
NEWS DEPT  
PS/PUS

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UNCLASSIFIED



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DAKFO 003/13

IMMEDIATE

OOFCO

GRS 70

ADVANCE COPY

UNCLASSIFIED

who to DSV, —  
- (Hd NEWAL)

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 11 OF 13 JANUARY

FOR COLES, PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 4; PARIS/DAKAR RALLY

1. AS FAR AS SWISS EMBASSY HERE KNOW - THEY HAVE NO RESIDENT MISSION IN BAMAKO - MICHEL BOSI IS STILL IN RACE DRIVING A DAIHATSU F55. IF THIS IS SO HE SHOULD BE RESTING IN GAO TODAY.
2. WE ARE INSTRUCTING CHRISTINA MCCOMB OF THIS EMBASSY, WHO

IS AT PRESENT ON HER WAY TO GAO ON BOARD A FRENCH MILITARY

✿ AIRCRAFT, TO MAKE CONTACT WITH BOSI THIS EVENING AND TO

REPORT BACK IMMEDIATELY.

FCO PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATE TO PARIS AND ALGIERS

SQUIRE

NNNN

265286 PRDRME G

548 PRODROM SG

NNNN

YOU HAVE MISSED PARIS AND ALIERRS OUT OF THE ADDRESS

HOW SHD I CORRECT THIS AT THIS END+

ARE THEY ACTION OR INFO ADDRESSEES?

INFO+

OK WE LL FIX IT THIS END



OK ERE WE GO

PRODRUM ALGERE  
24 01 PRDRME G

X-8  
PS/NO TO B...

UNCLASSIFIED  
TO FLASH FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 17 OF 13 JANUARY  
AND TO IMMEDIATE PARIS AND DAKAR

FLASH

PS  
PS/UPS  
PS/MR. HURD  
PS/PUS.  
MR MORREAY  
HD. NENAD  
HD. CONSD  
HD. NENSD  
R.C. (Lta)

FOR NO 10  
ALGIERS TEL NO 15 (MIPT REFERS)  
FROM MCLEAN.

1. BENOUNICHE (M-A) REPORTED AT 1730Z THAT THERE WERE NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS. SEARCH WAS BEING PURSUED WITH VIGOUR. THE ARMY HAD COMMITTED FOUR AIRCRAFT (ONE EQUIPPED FOR AERIAL SURVEY), PLUS A HELICOPTER WITH MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES ON BOARD. MR DENIS THATCHER AND THE AMBASSADOR WOULD BE GIVEN ACCESS TO A TELEX LINE DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE MFA. ALL MESSAGES WOULD THEN BE TRANSMITTED TO AND FROM US THROUGH THE MFA.

2. BENOUNICHE SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD REPORT (BEING PUT OUT BY AFP) THAT TWO OF THE QUOTE MISSING PERSONS UNQUOTE HAD BEEN RECOVERED. HE DID NOT KNOW THEIR IDENTITY, BUT THOUGHT THAT THERE MAY BE SOME CONFUSION: TWO POLICEMEN ENGAGED IN THE OFFICIAL SEARCH HAD THEMSELVES GONE MISSING YESTERDAY.

3. FRENCH EMBASSY ALGIERS HAVE NOTED INFORMATION SET OUT IN ALGIERS TEL NO 15, AND CONFIRMED THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAVE SENT THREE AIRCRAFT TO SEARCH IN AREAS BETWEEN BAMAKO AND GAO AND BETWEEN GAO AND ALGERIAN FRONTIER.

REPORT FROM FRENCH EMBASSY, BAMAKO, WILL BE REPEATED TO FRENCH EMBASSY IN LONDON THIS EVENING.

4. BENOUNICHE HAS ASKED ME TO CALL HIM AT 140630Z FOR LATEST NEWS.

5. FCO PLEASE PASS..

STRACHAN

NNNN  
PRODRUM ALGERE



# CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 18φ  
CONFIDENTIAL  
DESKBY 132φφφZ  
FM PARIS 131922Z JAN 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 44 OF 13 JANUARY  
INFO IMMEDIATE DAKAR, ALGIERS.

FDR NO 1φ  
MY TELNO 43: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY

1. FOLLOWING TELECON HOWARTH (NENAD/CARTER WE SPOKE TO CONTRE-AMIRAL HUGUES IN THE CABINET OF M. HERNU, THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE, AND ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE USE OF THE FRENCH MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.
2. CONTRE-AMIRAL HUGUES SAID THAT THERE WAS NO FORM OF FRENCH MILITARY COMMUNICATION WITH TAMANRASSET. THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT HAD DISPLAYED RELUCTANCE TO ALLOW FRENCH AIRCRAFT TO BE BASED OF TO CONDUCT SEARCHES IN ALGERIA. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES ON THIS POINT STILL CONTINUED. IN THE MEANTIME THE TWO FRENCH MILITARY AIRCRAFT AT PRESENT COMMITTED TO THE SEARCH WOULD BE BASED AT GAO.
3. CONTRE-AMIRAL HUGUES SAID THAT THE FIRST FRENCH AIRCRAFT HAD ARRIVED IN GAO AT 17φφZ, TOO LATE TO JOIN IN TODAY'S SEARCH. THE DEFENCE MINISTRY HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE SEARCH, BUT ASSUMED THAT MISS MCCOMB WOULD BE IN TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH HM EMBASSY DAKAR. AS SOON AS THE SEARCH BEGINS TOMORROW THE MINISTRY WILL ARRANGE FOR REGULAR REPORTS TO BE GIVEN TO THIS EMBASSY BY THE OPERATIONS CENTRE IN PARIS.

HIBBERT  
LIMITED PS/MR HURD  
NENAD MR ROBERTS  
WAD SIR L ALLINSON  
CRD MR WRIGHT  
PCD LORD N & LENNOX  
WED  
CONS.D  
DEF.D  
NEWS.D  
PS  
PS/LPS

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No. 10 DOWNING STREET

# CONFIDENTIAL



# CONFIDENTIAL

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DESKBY 131930Z

FM DAKAR 131905Z JAN 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 12 OF 13 JANUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS ALGIERS

ALGIERS TELNO 14: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY

1. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN TUR PASSED ON TO MALIAN AUTHORITIES THROUGH HM CONSUL WHO IS NOW IN BAMAKO AND TO FRENCH MILITARY AIRCRAFT (ATLANTIQUE) DUE TO ARRIVE IN GAO WITH MCCOMB ON BOARD AT 1810.
2. OTHER AIRCRAFT (NORD FRAKC) WILL OVERNIGHT IN BAMAKO AND GO ON TO GAO TOMORROW.
3. LOCAL RALLY ORGANISERS HAVE NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH GAO AND HAVE NO MORE INFORMATION THAN THAT BEING BROADCAST BY FRANCE INTER.  
FCO PSE PASS.

SQUIRE

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

LIMITED	PS/LPS
NENAD	PS/MAHURD
WAD	MA MOBERLY
CAD	SIR L ALLINSON
PCD	MA WRIGHT
WED	LORD N.G. LENNOR
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# CONFIDENTIAL

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FLASH

ADVANCE COPY

RESTRICTED  
 DESKBY ALGIERS 131130Z  
 DESKBY PARIS 131130Z  
 DESKBY MODUK AIR 131130Z  
 DESKBY HQ 38 GP 131130Z  
 FM DAKAR 130945Z JAN 82  
 TO FLASH FCO  
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 10 OF 13 JANUARY  
 AND TO IMMEDIATE ALGIERS PARIS MODUK AIR HQ 38 GP

*Mr. NENAS, (Ltd),  
 Mr. News D,  
 Ps,  
 Ps/LB,  
 Ps/Mr. Hunt,  
 Mr. Moberly,  
 Ps/~~no. 10, Downing St (2)~~*

FOR NO. 10

*(7x)*

MY TELNO 9: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY

1. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT RAF HERCULES TRAINING FLIGHT TASK NO. 4858 IS DUE TO ARRIVE DAKAR AT 1600 THIS EVENING. IT IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART DAKAR AT 0800 ON 14 JANUARY FOR KINSHASA ETA 1710 14 JANUARY.

2. YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER THIS AIRCRAFT COULD BE OF USE IN THE SEARCH/RECOVERY OF MR THATCHER.

FCO PSE/PASS.

SQUIRE

*[Passed, as requested.]*

NNNN



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265287 PRDRME G  
548 PRODROM SG  
265287 PRDRME G

DAKFO 001/13

FLASH

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00 ALGIERS DESKBY 131000Z

ADVANCE COPY

00 PARIS DESKBY 131000Z

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GRS 55  
UNCLASSIFIED  
DESKBY ALGIERS 131000Z  
DESKBY PARIS 131000Z  
FM DAKAR 130830Z JAN 82  
TO FLASH FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 9 OF 13 JANUARY  
AND TO IMMEDIATE ALGIERS AND PARIS

FOR NO. 10

MY TELNO 8: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY  
1. AIR AFRIQUE STAFF AT DAKAR HAVE COME OUT ON STRIKE THIS  
MORNING DELAYING DEPARTURE OF FLIGHT TO BAMAKO UNTIL AT  
LEAST 1300 TODAY.  
2. WHITE WILL TRAVEL ON POSTPONED FLIGHT UNLESS DEVELOPMENTS  
THIS MORNING MAKE HIS JOURNEY UNNECESSARY.

SQUIRE

NNNN

SENT AT 130839Z MBK

FLASH

265287 PRDRME G  
548 PRODROM SG

QSL PSE KKK  
QSL YR FLASH AT 0841Z NSL



GRS 352

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DESKBY 131630Z

FM PARIS 131543Z JAN 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 42 OF 13 JANUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE DAKAR, ALGIERS

FOR NUMBER 10

MY TELNO 40: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY

1. IN ADDITION TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE ALREADY REPORTED TO OUR REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING MR THATCHER, YOU ARE AWARE FROM DIRECT TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE ELYSEE OF PRESIDENT MITTERRAND'S PERSONAL OFFER TO ASSIST WITH FRENCH AIRCRAFT.
2. A MEMBER OF THE CABINET OF M. HERNU, THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE, TOLD THE EMBASSY EARLY THIS AFTERNOON THAT A FRENCH AIRCRAFT AT DAKAR HAD BEEN GIVEN ORDERS TO CONDUCT A SEARCH. WE HAVE PASSED TO HIM ALL THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US AND SUGGESTED THAT THE FRENCH MILITARY IN DAKAR SHOULD KEEP IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE BRITISH EMBASSY THERE. M. HERNU SUBSEQUENTLY ANNOUNCED, AT THE END OF THIS MORNING'S MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO DESPATCH THREE FRENCH MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO JOIN IN THE SEARCH OPERATIONS. THE DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED.
3. THE TIMES CORRESPONDANT IN PARIS TOLD THE EMBASSY THIS MORNING THAT A SOURCE OF HIS IN THE QUAI D'ORSAY, WHOSE IDENTITY HE WOULD NOT REVEAL, HAD LEARNT FROM THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF DEFENCE THAT MR THATCHER'S CAR AND CO-DRIVER HAD BEEN LOCATED, BUT THAT MR THATCHER HIMSELF WAS STILL MISSING. THE EMBASSY' OWN DIRECT CONTACTS WITH THE QUAI AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE DO NOT CONFIRM THIS. A MEETING WAS CHAIRED IN THE QUAI THIS MORNING BY THE DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA (AUSSEIL) TO DISCUSS THE OPERATION CONCERNING MR THATCHER. AFTER THE MEETING HIS DEPUTY (SAULIERE) TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THEY HAD NO FRESH INFORMATION BUT WOULD KEEP CLOSELY IN TOUCH. THE CABINET OF M. HERNU HAS TOLD THE EMBASSY AT 1500Z THAT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE HAS NO INDEPENDENT INFORMATION WHICH WOULD CORROBORATE THE TIMES STORY. THEY SAID THE FRENCH AIRCRAFT DESPATCHED FROM DAKAR WAS NOW WITHIN ONE HOUR OF ARRIVAL AT GAO AND WOULD IMMEDIATELY JOIN THE SEARCH.
4. THE RALLY PRESS CENTRE TOLD THE EMBASSY THIS AFTERNOON THAT A DIRECT TELEPHONE MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT 1100Z FROM THE RACE ORGANISERS IN GAO. THE ORGANISERS HAD TOLD THE CENTRE THAT THEY HAD NO FRESH INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF MR THATCHER.

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST.]

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MR MOBERLY

SIR L ALLINSON  
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FM ALGIERS  
UNCLASSIFIED  
TO FLASH F.C.O. TEL NO 14 OF 13.01.82

AND TO FLASH DAKAR AND IMMEDIATE PARIS

FOR NUMBER 10

ALGIERS TELNO 14 AND TELECON WITH COLES: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY

FROM MCLEAN

1. AMBASSADOR HAS TELEPHONED FROM ALGIERS AIRPORT TO REPORT BRIEFING GIVEN (AT APPROX 1500Z) BY ALGERIAN LIAISON PARTY TO MR DENIS THATCHER. SEARCHERS HAVE RECEIVED REPORT FROM OFFICIALS AT FRONTIER THAT VEHICLE SOUGHT PLUS PERSONS ANSWERING TO DESCRIPTION OF MR MARCK THATCHER AND HIS COMPANIONS PASSED INTO MALI ON 12 JANUARY. CROSSING POINT WAS SAID TO BE IN REGION OF IRHAREN (PHONETIC), EN ROUTE TOWARDS GAO. EMBASSY MAPS SUGGEST THAT THIS MUST BE IRHARRHAR OR TORRAIT IRHARRHAR AT APPROX 20.00 NORTH, 1.00 EAST.
2. FULL AIR AND GROUND SEARCH CONTINUES BUT WITH EFFORTS NOW CONCENTRATED ON FRONTIER AREAS.
3. WHILST CONCERNED TO HAVE SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FOR YESTERDAY'S REPORT, ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES (AND MR THATCHER) ARE ENCOURAGED THAT MR MARK THATCHER, ON THIS BASIS, WOULD HAVE BEEN QUOTE LOST UNQUOTE OR ONLY SOME 24 HOURS.
4. DAKAR WILL WISH TO MAKE URGENT ENQUIRIES OF MALI AUTHORITIES AND RALLY ORGANISERS.
5. FCO PLEASE PASS.

STRACHAN

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[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

Seen

PRIME MINISTER

The French Ambassador rang with a message from the French Foreign Minister.

A French Government plane has left France for the <sup>T</sup>Desalit area in Northern Mali to carry out a search. Contacts in Paris with the race organisers have suggested that it might be worth looking in this area. The plane will be operational in the area today. It flies at low speed and medium altitude and has a glass panel in the bottom for observation. The French will also be sending a further plane to operate tomorrow. They will stay in touch.

I thanked the Ambassador very much for his information and said that I knew you would be extremely grateful.

A.J.C.

13 January 1982



CONFIDENTIAL

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ZZ ALGIERS  
GRS 152  
CONFIDENTIAL  
FM FCO 131730Z JANUARY 82  
TO FLASH ALGIERS  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 8 OF 13 JANUARY  
AND TO FLASH DAKAR,  
INFO FLASH PARIS, ROUTINE MODUK (DS 8, DS 11).

YOUR TELNO 14: MARK THATCHER

1. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SPEEDY REPORTS.
2. FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION ONLY YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE RAF HERCULES REFERRED TO IN DAKAR TELNO 10 HAS BEEN DIVERTED TO GIBRALTAR WHERE IT WILL ARRIVE TONIGHT AND BE HELD PROBABLY FOR ABOUT 24 HOURS. IT WILL THEN MOVE ON TO DAKAR ON ITS ORIGINAL TASK. IN ADDITION THE RAF COULD POSSIBLY PROVIDE A CANBERRA TO ASSIST IN THE SEARCH. NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN YET AS TO WHETHER EITHER OF THESE AIRCRAFT SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR A SEARCH BUT IT WOULD HELP US IN OUR CONSIDERATION OF THAT TO KNOW WHETHER YOU THINK THE ALGERIAN OR MALIAN RESCUE AUTHORITIES WOULD WELCOME A UK OFFER OF HELP OR ANOTHER AIRCRAFT. YOU SHOULD NOT, REPEAT NOT, CONSULT THE ALGERIANS OR MALIANS AT THIS STAGE.

CARRINGTON

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DIST.		COPIES TO.
LIMITED		MR PERRIS, FINANCE DEPT.
NENAD	PS	COL DURRANT, PCD
CONSULAR	PS/LPS	
DEFENCE	PS/MR HURD	
WED	PS/PUS	
NEWS	SIR A ACLAND	
WAD	MR MOBERLY	

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CONFIDENTIAL



File No. ....  
Department .....  
Drafted by .....  
(Block Capitals) .....  
Tel. Extn. ....

OUTWARD  
TELEGRAM

Security Classification
Precedence FLASH
DESKBY ..... Z

FOR  
COMMS. DEPT.  
USE

Despatched

(Date) .....  
(Time) ..... Z

POSTBY ..... Z

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) ..... Z(G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix) .....  
(Security Class.) ..... (Caveat/ Privacy Marking) .....  
(Codeword) ..... (Deskby) ..... Z

TO FLASH DAKAR Tel. No. .... of  
(precedence) (post)

AND TO (precedence/post) .....

AND SAVING TO ..... 13-1-82

REPEATED TO (for info) FLASH ALGIERS  
IMMEDIATE PARIS

SAVING TO (for info) .....

Distribution:-

[TEXT]

From John Coles, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street

BEGINS

Today's British press reports a radio interview given somewhere in West Africa yesterday by a Swiss rally driver called Mischel Bosi. He apparently stated that he had seen Mark Thatcher and his co-driver last Friday and states that they had strayed from the main track after the back axle of the car had broken.

The British newspapers who print this story have so far been unable to tell us where Bosi is now. If, by any chance he is in Dakar, please speak to him and

Copies to:-



try to establish precisely where he saw  
Mr. Thatcher.

ENDS.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

GRS 115  
UNCLASSIFIED  
DESKBY 122110Z  
FM PARIS 122040Z JAN 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 38 OF 12 JANUARY 1982  
INFO IMMEDIATE ALGIERS, DAKAR.

FOR NUMBER 10

TELECON HUM/COLES: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY

1. THE RALLY PRESS CENTRE TOLD THE EMBASSY THIS EVENING, IN CONTRADICTION OF EARLIER ACCOUNTS (MY TELNO 32 AND ALGIERS TELNO 11), THAT MR THATCHER HAD NOT (REPEAT NOT) YET BEEN LOCATED. THEY HAD HAD NO (REPEAT NO) INDEPENDENT INFORMATION FROM THE RALLY ORGANISERS IN AFRICA FOR THE PAST 24 HOURS.

2. WE HAVE SPOKEN TO THE RADIO STATION EUROPE 1, WHICH IS A SPONSOR OF THE RALLY. THEY RECEIVED A RADIO REPORT THIS EVENING FROM THEIR CORRESPONDENT IN GAO (MALI), THE RALLY'S NEXT PORT OF CALL. HE HAD SAID THAT A HELICOPTER SEARCH TODAY HAD DRAWN A BLANK AND WOULD RESUME TOMORROW MORNING. THE ORGANISERS BELIEVED THAT THEY KNEW IN WHAT AREA MR THATCHER'S CAR HAD BROKEN DOWN.

HIBBERT

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SIR L ALLINSON



GPS 115  
UNCLASSIFIED  
DESKBY 121945Z  
FM ALGIERS 121910Z JAN 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 12 OF 12 JANUARY  
AND TO IMMEDIATE PARIS DAKAR

FOR NUMBER 10

MY TELNO 11: PARIS - DAKAR RALLY

1. WE HAVE THIS EVENING SPOKEN AT LENGTH TO DIRECTOR OF NORTH AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPE DEPARTMENT AT M. A.

2. BENOUNICHE EMPHASISED THAT AT NO TIME HAD ORGANISERS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES (NOR INDEED WITH EMBASSY) ABOUT MR THATCHER'S SITUATION, AND GREATLY REGRETTED THEIR FAILURE TO CLARIFY IMPRECISE AND CONTRADICTORY PRESS REPORTS. ALGERIANS STOOD READY TO ASSIST IN RESCUE OPERATION BUT NEEDED TO KNOW WHO WAS INVOLVED IN PRESENT ATTEMPTS, THEIR BASE, TYPE OF AIRCRAFT, DETAILS OF SIGHTINGS, ETC. HE ASSURED US THAT URGENT ENQUIRIES WERE BEING MADE.

3. FCO PLEASE PASS.

[PASSED AS REQUESTED]

STRACHAN

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SIR L. ALLINSON

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DESKBY 121500Z  
FM ALGIERS 12:700Z JAN 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 11 OF 12 JANUARY  
AND TO IMMEDIATE PARIS DAKAR

FOR NUMBER 10

ALGIERS TELNO 10 AND DAKAR TELNO 7: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY.

1. AFTER RECEIVING TELEPHONE MESSAGE FROM TOMLINS, DAILY MAIL PARIS REP, CONTRADICTING INFORMATION CONTAINED IN TUR, WE SPOKE TO THIERRY SABINE PRESS CENTRE IN PARIS.
2. PRESS CENTRE CONFIRMED 1600Z THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED RADIO MESSAGE FROM RESCUE AIRCRAFT, STATING THAT MR THATCHER HAD BEEN LOCATED BUT THAT OWING TO LACK OF SUITABLE LANDING SPACE HE HAD NOT YET BEEN AIRLIFTED. PRESS CENTRE SAID THEY WOULD KEEP EMBASSY IN PARIS INFORMED.
3. WE HAVE NO NEWS FROM THE ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES.
4. FCO PLEASE PASS.

STRACHAN

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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SIR L ALLINSON

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GRS 9φ  
UNCLASSIFIED  
DESKBY 122145Z  
FM PARIS 122121Z JAN 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 39 OF 12 JANUARY 1982  
INFO IMMEDIATE DAKAR ALGIERS

FOR NUMBER 1φ

MY TELNO 38: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY

FOLLOWING MY TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH COLES, THE EMBASSY CONTACTED THE DUTY OFFICER AT THE QUAI D'ORSAY. HE HAD JUST BEEN TELEPHONED BY A RELATIVE OF MLE VERNEY, MR THATCHER'S COMPANION, AND WAS AWARE OF THE POSITION. HE READILY AGREED THAT AN URGENT MESSAGE SHOULD BE SENT TO THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN BAMAKO, INSTRUCTING THEM TO APPROACH THE MALI GOVERNMENT AND ASK THAT EVERY ASSISTANCE BE EXTENDED TO THE RALLY ORGANISERS IN CONDUCTING A SEARCH FOR THE MISSING PARTICIPANTS, AND THAT ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITUATION NORTH OF GAO SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE.

HIBBERT

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

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PS/MR HURD  
PS/PUS  
MR MOBERLY  
SIR L ALLINSON



GRS 220

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 122115Z JAN 82  
TO FLASH ALGIERS  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 7 OF 12 JANUARY  
AND TO FLASH DAKAR PARIS.

YOUR TELNO 12: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY.

1. WE HAVE LITTLE INFORMATION HERE AND HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN NO RELIABLE FACTS FROM RACE ORGANISERS IN PARIS.
2. THE PRIME MINISTER IS NOW MOST CONCERNED, SINCE THERE HAS BEEN NO (NO) RELIABLE INFORMATION FOR THREE DAYS. GRATEFUL IF YOU, DAKAR AND PARIS WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ESTABLISH THE FACTS.
3. FOR ALGIERS: WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT OFFER TO ASSIST IN A RESCUE OPERATION. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE FURTHER INFORMATION THEY SEEK CAN BE OBTAINED HERE OR IN PARIS. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT ONLY THE RALLY ORGANISERS ON THE ROUTE OF THE RALLY ARE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE IT. WE THEREFORE HOPE, AND YOU SHOULD MAKE THIS REQUEST URGENTLY, THAT THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT WILL LAUNCH AN OPERATION WITHOUT DELAY. PRESUMABLY THEIR MILITARY WOULD BE BEST PLACED TO ASSIST.
4. FOR DAKAR: PLEASE CONSIDER URGENTLY WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP, AND REPORT. WE HOPE YOU WILL SEND A MEMBER OF YOUR STAFF TO BAMAKO URGENTLY TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION WITH GOVERNMENT OF MALI.
5. FOR PARIS: WE UNDERSTAND (TELCON COLES/AMBASSADOR) THAT THE QUAI ARE APPROACHING GOVERNMENT OF MALI THROUGH FRENCH EMBASSY IN BAMAKO. WE SHOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR ANY FURTHER ASSISTANCE THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT CAN PROVIDE.

CARRINGTON

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FLASH ADVANCE COPY

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM DAKAR 122310Z JAN 82  
TO FLASH FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 8 OF 12 JANUARY  
AND TO IMMEDIATE PARIS ALGIERS

Hd NEWAD	Ps/LPS
Hd WAD	Ps/Mr Hurd
Hd CRD	Ps/Pus
Hd PSD	Mr Moberly
Hd News	Sir L Allison
Ps	RC

YOUR TELNO 7: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY

1. RALLY OFFICE IN DAKAR HAS NO NEWS.
2. HM CONSUL LEAVES FOR BAMAKO FIRST THING TOMORROW MORNING TO MAKE CONTACT WITH MALI AUTHORITIES AND DO ALL HE CAN TO OBTAIN THEIR FULL COOPERATION.
3. HE WILL REPORT THROUGH FRENCH EMBASSY.

FCO PSE PASS.

SQUIRE

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GRS 95  
UNCLASSIFIED  
FM DAKAR 121215Z JAN 82  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 7 OF 12 JANUARY  
AND TO PRIORITY ALGIERS AND PARIS

MY TELNO 6: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY

1. SENEGALESE DAILY LE SOLEIL QUOTING FRENCH AND BRITISH SOURCES IN ALGIERS REPORTS THE SAFE RECOVERY OF MR THATCHER AND HIS CO-DRIVER BY A HELICOPTER BELONGING TO THE RALLY ORGANISERS. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE HELICOPTER HAD TAKEN MR THATCHER TO THE NEAREST TOWN, TAMANRASSET IN ALGERIA OR TO MALI TO JOIN THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE RALLY.
2. LOCAL ORGANISER HERE HAS STILL NO DIRECT CONFIRMATION OF THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS REPORTED IN THE PRESS. HE HAS PROMISED TO CONTACT US AS SOON AS HE RECEIVES ANY NEWS.

SQUIRE

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PS/MR HURD  
MR MOBERLY



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00 ALGIERS

00 DAKAR

GRS 112  
RESTRICTED

DESKBY 111600Z

FM PARIS 111500Z JAN 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 32 OF 11 JANUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE ALGIERS, DAKAR.

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PS/MR. HORD.  
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MR. MOTHERLY  
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PS/MID Bony St.  
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FOR NUMBER 10

ALGIERS TELNOS 8 AND 9 AND TELECON CARTER/COLES; PARIS DAKAR RALLY

1. ACCORDING TO THE RALLY PRESS CENTRE IN PARIS, MR THATCHER'S VEHICLE IS PRESUMED OUT OF FUEL NORTH WEST OF TIMDJAQUINE (MAP REFERENCE 21.47.N 4.30E) HAVING STRAYED OFF THE AGREED COURSE OF THE RALLY. THE VEHICLE WAS SPOTTED BY AN AIRCRAFT FOLLOWING THE RACE, WHICH REPORTED THAT THE OCCUPANTS APPEARED IN NO DANGER. THE AIRCRAFT HAD THEN TO LEAVE THE SCENE IN ORDER TO REFUEL, BUT WOULD RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND LAND NEARBY, IT WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO FLY THE DRIVERS TO A NEARBY RALLY CENTRE IF THEY SO WISHED.

2. WE SHALL REPORT AGAIN WHEN FURTHER DETAILS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AT THE PRESS CENTRE.

HIBBERT

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 11/1521Z AM/LRD

RESTRICTED

9P236

RESTRICTED

DESKBY 111500Z

FM DAKAR 111228Z JAN 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 6 OF 11 JANUARY

AND TO IMMEDIATE ALGIERS PARIS

ALGIERS TELNO 8: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY

1. AVIS REP, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATION OF RALLY ARRANGEMENTS IN SENEGAL HAS TOLD US THAT FRANCE-INTER, OVER-SEAS SERVICE OF FRENCH RADIO REPORTED TODAY THAT THREE CARS (INCLUDING MR THATCHER'S) WHICH HAD BEEN MISSING HAD NOW BEEN FOUND. THERE HAS BEEN NO SUGGESTION THAT ANY OF THE VEHICLES HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY ACCIDENT.
2. OUR CONTACT EXPECTS TO HAVE FULLER DETAILS FROM THE RALLY ORGANISERS THIS EVENING. MY MALIAN COLLEAGUE IS ALSO TRYING TO OBTAIN INFORMATION THROUGH HIS CHANNELS.
3. THE SENEGALESE DAILY LE SOLEIL OF 6 JANUARY CARRIED A REPORT OF AN INTERVIEW WITH MR THATCHER ALLEGED TO BE ON THE QUAYSIDE AT ALGIERS PORT.

FCO PSE PASS.

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

[PASSED AS REQUESTED]

SQUIRE

LIMITED

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NENAD

NEWS D

WAD

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PS | MR HUAD

MR MOBERLY

RESTRICTED



GPS ,160  
UNCLASSIFIED  
FM ALGIERS 1 1200Z JANUARY 1982  
TO FLASH FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 9 OF 11 JANUARY  
AND TO IMMEDIATE PARIS  
AND TO PRIORITY DAKAR

FOR NUMBER 10  
MY TELNO 8 AND TELECON WITH COLES: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY

1. MFA ARE PURSUING ENQUIRIES THROUGH THE GENDARMERIE.
2. MEANWHILE AFP HAVE TOLD US (AT 1050Z) THAT AN ALGERIAN SOURCE HAS REPORTED THAT MR THATCHER HAS BEEN LOCATED SIXTY-FIVE KILOMETRES NORTH-EAST OF TIMEIAQUINE, OUT OF PETROL.
3. MFA HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE NO (REPEAT NO) OFFICIAL INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANISATION OR SURVEILLANCE OF THIS PRIVATE RALLY. NOR ARE ALGERIAN TOURING CLUB INVOLVED. CORRECT TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR THIERRY SABINE ORGANISATION (YOUR TELNO 246) IS (33) (1) 525-7647 THERE IS ALSO A RALLY PRESS CENTRE SAID TO BE IN RADIO CONTACT WITH THE RACE, WHOSE NUMBER IS (33) (1) 563-1371. THE FORMER ARE REFERRING ALL ENQUIRERS TO THE LATTER. THE CENTRE'S NUMBER, HOWEVER, IS CONTINUALLY ENGAGED. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF PARIS WOULD TRY TO MAKE THIS CONTACT.
4. FCO PLEASE PASS TO OTHER ADDRESSEES.

STRACHAN  
LIMITED  
NENAD  
WAD  
CRD  
PCD  
NEWS D

PS  
PS/KPS  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/PUS  
MR MOBERLY  
SIR. L. ALLINSON



*With the compliments of*

*R. H. J. Lyne*

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

LONDON, SW1A 2AH



CONFIDENTIAL

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RR PARIS

GRS 217

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 171700Z DEC 1981

TO ROUTINE PARIS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 572 OF 17 DECEMBER

AND TO ROUTINE MADRID, AND ALGIERS, AND RABAT, AND DAKAR.

4TH RALLY, PARIS-ALGIERS-DAKAR. 1ST TO 20 JANUARY 1982.

1. MR MARK THATCHER WHO NORMALLY RECEIVES PROTECTION WHILST IN UK AND ABROAD WILL BE TAKING PART. A SPECIAL BRANCH OFFICER WILL ACCOMPANY AS FAR AS PARIS ON 23 DECEMBER BUT NO FURTHER.

2. GRATEFUL YOU ADVISE YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF MARK THATCHER'S PARTICIPATION BUT MAKE NO FORMAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN PROTECTION.

3. ITINERARY IS AS FOLLOWS:-

1 JANUARY PARIS TO OLIVET.

2 JANUARY GARRIGUES TO SETE.

3 JANUARY SEA CROSSING

4 JANUARY ALGIERS TO BLIDA MIDIA BOR SAADA OULED DJELLAL.

5 JANUARY TOUGGOURT ZELFANA HASSI MASSEUD.

6 JANUARY HASSI BEL GUEBBOUR.

7 JANUARY AREA TIT . 8 JANUARY TIT TO TIMEIAOUINE.

9 JANUARY TIMEIAOUINE TO GAO.

10 JANUARY GAO TO REPOS.

11 JANUARY GAO, IN TELLIT, N'DAKI, GOSSI, HOMBORI, BONI, DOUMA, BORE, KONA, MOPTI.

12 JANUARY MOPTI, BANDIAGORA, KORO OUANIGOUYA, DJIBO, BARABOULE, BONI, GOSSI, DORO, GAO.

13 JANUARY GAO TO REPOS.

14 JANUARY GAO TO TOMBAUCTOU.

15 JANUARY TOMBAUCTOU TO NIONO.

16 JANUARY NIONI TO NIORO DU SAHEL.

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17 JANUARY NIORO DU SAHEL, KAYES, KIDIRA.  
18 JANUARY KIDIRA, TAMBACOUNDA, KOUNGHEUL.  
19 JANUARY KOUNGHEUL, LINGUERE, DARA, LOUGA, TIOUGOUNE.  
20 JANUARY TIOUGOUNE, DAKAR.

CARRINGTON

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12 NOV 1962  
M. ...  
W. ...  
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FRAY - WESTON - INFORMATION SECTION - BRITISH EMBASSY - PARIS  
FR - DURRANT - FCO - FCO

P R I O R I T Y  
=====

FCO TEL NO 566 - TELECON WESTON/DURRANT

1. TODAY'S BAG HAS BEEN CANCELLED. FOLLOWING IS ITINERARY.

ITINERAIRE DU LEVE RALLYE PARIS-ALGER-DAKAR/LE POINT -EUROPE NO 1  
=====

- 1ER JANVIER 1962 : PARIS - OLIVET
- 2 JANVIER 1962 : GARRIGUES - SETE
- 3 JANVIER 1962 : BATEAU
- 4 JANVIER 1962 : ALGER-BLIDA-MIDIA-BOU SAADA- BOUED DJELLAL  
LIAISON
- 5 JANVIER 1962 : 1ERE DEMI-ETAPE : BOUED DJELLAL - TOUGGURT  
BOUED DJELLAL - EL SAADJ (PISTE INTERDITE) -  
EL SAADJ - TOUGGURT SPECIAL LIAISON
- 2EME DEMI-ETAPE : TOUGGURT - ZELFANA  
TOUGGURT - GUERRARA SPECIAL  
GUERRARA - ZELFANA LIAISON
- ZELFANA - HASSI MESSAGUD LIAISON
- 6 JANVIER 1962 : HASSI MESSAGUD - HASSI BEL GUEBBOUR LIAISON  
HASSI BEL GUEBBOUR - 4 CHEMINS SPECIALE
- 7 JANVIER 1962 : 4 CHEMINS - IN ECKER - TIT
- 8 JANVIER 1962 : TIT - TIMEIADUINE
- 9 JANVIER 1962 : TIMEIADUINE - GAO
- 10 JANVIER 1962 : GAO - REPOS
- 11 JANVIER 1962 : GAO - IN TELLIT - N'DAKI - GOSSI - HOMBORI -  
BONI - DCUMA - BORE - KONA - MOPTI
- 12 JANVIER 1962 : MOPTI - BANDIAGARA - KORO - SUAHIGBOUYA - DJIBO -  
SARABOULE - BONI - GOSSI - DJORO - GAO
- 13 JANVIER 1962 : GAO - REPOS
- 14 JANVIER 1962 : GAO - TOMBOUCTOU
- 15 JANVIER 1962 : TOMBOUCTOU - NIGNO
- 16 JANVIER 1962 : NIGNO - NIORS DU SAHEL
- 17 JANVIER 1962 : NIORS DU SAHEL - KAYES  
KAYES - TRAVERSEE SPECIALE  
KAYES - KIDIRA LIAISON
- 18 JANVIER 1962 : KIDIRA - TAMBACOUNDA  
TAMBACOUNDA - TRAVERSEE SPECIALE  
TAMBACOUNDA - KOUNGHEUL LIAISON
- 19 JANVIER 1962 : KOUNGHEUL - LINGUERE  
LINGUERE - DARA SPECIALE  
DARA - LOUGA LIAISON
- LOUGA - TIOUGOUNE SPECIALE
- 20 JANVIER 1962 : TIOUGOUNE - DAKAR LIAISON  
SPECIALE

2. COPY OF ITINERARY AND OTHER RELEVANT LITERATURE FOLLOWS BY  
NEXT BAG