MT

Confidential Filing

PM's Meeting with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan on 8 February 1983, and subsequent meetings.

PRIME MINISTER

February 1983.

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
~~8.2.83~~							
~~21.2.83~~							
~~2.3.83~~							
~~2.9.86~~							
~~23.9.86~~							
~~30.9.86~~							
~~7.10.86~~							
~~10.10.86~~							
~~13.6.88~~							
~~20.6.88~~							
5.12.88							

PREM 19/2417

File MM (59)

CONFIDENTIAL

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary 5 December 1988

VISIT OF PRINCE SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN

Thank you for your letter of 5 December about the visit of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan on 16 December. I feel that it will not be possible for the Prime Minister to see him on this occasion.

C. D. POWELL

J. S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL

KK.

670

CC PF

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 December 1988

Dear Charles,

Visit of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan

Prince Sadruddin will be attending a conference in London on 16 December, and has asked if he might pay a brief call on the Prime Minister on that day.

We recommend that the Prime Minister should see prince Sadruddin, the UN Coordinator for Afghanistan aid, when he visited London in June; unfortunately, it proved impossible to arrange a mutually convenient date. As I mentioned in my letter of 20 June, Prince Sadruddin expressed the hope that he would be able to meet the Prime Minister at a later stage.

We do not, however, believe that the Prime Minister should give any priority to seeing him now. We know that her diary is full.

The Foreign Secretary plans to see him on 16 December; we may arrange other meetings here, and at the ODA, if Prince Sadruddin's programme allows.

Yours,

Stephen Wall

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 June 1988

Dear Charles

Visit of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan

Thank you for your letter of 13 June.

We have been in touch with Prince Sadruddin. He says that he still wishes to visit London on 24 June, since he will be attending a conference that day of voluntary agencies involved with aid for Afghanistan. He would like to call on the FCO: he will see the Foreign Secretary and then have some more detailed discussions with officials.

Nonetheless, Prince Sadruddin hopes to return to London at a later and mutually more convenient date in order to see the Prime Minister. It may be best if we discuss possible dates with him during his visit here on 24 June. We can then be in touch again.

Yours ever

Bob Peirce

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER: Mtg with
Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan
Feb 83

CONFIDENTIAL

File DAS
cc PC
TG

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

13 June 1988

Dear Bob,

VISIT OF PRINCE SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN

Thank you for your letter of 13 June about the visit of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan on 24 June. I of course understand his importance and the desirability of the Prime Minister seeing him. But the fact is that the visit has been fixed for a date which may be convenient for him and others but is absolutely not at all convenient for the Prime Minister. It would not seem to me to be beyond the bounds of protocol to suggest that, important as he is, he might alter the date of his visit to fall in with the Prime Minister's programme. I should be grateful if you could investigate the possibilities of this. You might like to liaise with Tessa Gaisman about possible dates after the European Council on 27/28 June.

Yours ever,

Charles Powell

C. D. POWELL

R. N. Peirce, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL

89

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 June 1988

Dear Charles

Visit of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, UN Coordinator for the Afghanistan aid programme, plans to visit London on 24 June. He will call on the Foreign Secretary and meet senior officials from the FCO and the ODA. The Foreign Secretary also recommends that the Prime Minister should receive Prince Sadruddin.

Prince Sadruddin is a former UN High Commissioner for Refugees who now lives in Geneva. (The Prime Minister will recall meeting him in 1986 when he came to London for election as UN Secretary-General.) He was appointed UN Coordinator by the UN Secretary-General (to whom he answers directly) in late May, and is responsible for all aspects of the aid programme to Afghanistan. He is likely to prove an increasingly important and prominent figure in the months to come.

UN planning for the aid programme to Afghanistan is now gathering speed, although it is still too early to know whether the start of Soviet withdrawal has yet triggered a gradual exodus of refugees from Pakistan and Iran. The bulk of the refugees are not expected to begin their return until 1989 at the earliest, but of more immediate interest are Prince Sadruddin's plans to convene a UN pledging conference in New York on 14 June. The Prime Minister will know that we have already announced that we will contribute £10 million this year for Afghan refugee relief and resettlement.

The Foreign Secretary considers that a call by Prince Sadruddin on the Prime Minister would be a good opportunity to probe his thinking. It would also demonstrate our continuing interest in Afghanistan and our concern for the plight of the Afghan refugees. It would also be an opportunity to reinforce our view that aid should as far as possible go to those in need, not be used to bolster the legitimacy of the Kabul regime.

/The

The Foreign Secretary understands that the Prime Minister is already very busy on 24 June. But he considers it important that the Prime Minister should see Sadruddin, particularly since he will be seeing Vice President Bush and Secretary of State Shultz (and possibly also President Reagan) on his trip to the US, and President Mitterrand and the French Prime Minister in Paris. The visit to London will receive publicity and the Foreign Secretary believes that it would be misunderstood if Sadruddin were not received at a comparable level here.

Yours ever

Bob Peirce

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

(4)

Bellerive 10th October 1986.

Prime Minister
A thank you letter from Sadruddin Aga Khan
CDP

Dear Madam Prime Minister,

Allow me to thank you again for receiving me at Number 10. It was a pleasure to see you again and to be given an opportunity to discuss so many questions for which we share a common interest.

I always enjoy our meetings and greatly appreciate these regular contacts — in London, Geneva or Salzburg. It is encouraging to know that I can exchange views and seek your advice in this way.

My wife wishes to be remembered to you and Mr. Thatcher.

Please accept, Madam Prime Minister, the assurance of my highest consideration and warmest personal esteem.

Sadruddin Aga Khan.

mf

(2) cc PC

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 October 1986

Prime Minister

CDP 7/x.

Dear Charles,

UN Secretary-Generalship

In my letter of 30 September I said it was our expectation that the re-election of Perez de Cuellar would be completed in the course of October. I now enclose UKMIS New York telegram 978 of 2 October which gives the latest position.

In brief, the five Permanent Members have assured Perez de Cuellar of their support and received his agreement to serve a second term. Procedures are in hand aimed at his election by the Security Council and then afterwards by the General Assembly on 10 October.

Yours ever

Robin Culshaw

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
No 10 Downing St

GRS 880

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

cc for information
file.

DEDIP

FM UKMIS NEW YORK

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 978

OF 022310Z OCTOBER 86

INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, PARIS, MOSCOW, PEKING

TOP COPY

Mrs Rogerson.
We shd submit to PS and for PS/10

MY TELNO 847: ELECTION OF UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

SUMMARY

1. PEREZ DE CUELLAR IS WILLING TO SERVE A SECOND TERM. THE 5 PERMANENT MEMBERS HAVE ASSURED HIM OF THEIR SUPPORT AND SO INFORMED THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, WHO WILL NOW TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

DETAIL

2. THE AMBASSADORS OF THE 5 STATES PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CALLED BY ARRANGEMENT ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN HIS HOUSE ON THE AFTERNOON OF 2 OCTOBER. EACH OF THE FIVE, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE HOPE THAT HE WOULD SERVE FOR A SECOND TERM. IF HE WOULD AGREE, THEY WOULD SUPPORT HIM.

3. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID THAT, IF ELECTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HE WOULD BE WILLING TO SERVE A SECOND TERM, THOUGH THIS WOULD BE AT SOME PERSONAL SACRIFICE, SINCE IT WAS NOT ALTOGETHER A PLEASANT JOB AND HE HAD MANY THINGS IN PRIVATE LIFE WHICH HE WOULD LIKE TO DO. HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT REFUSE A CALL TO SUCH DUTY AND HIS HEALTH, HE BELIEVED, WAS SATISFACTORY. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN PERSONALLY AND FROM MR SHULTZ OF AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS AND, IN PARTICULAR, FOR AMERICAN FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS. AMBASSADOR WALTERS CONFIRMED THIS AND SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD REDOUBLE HIS EFFORTS WITH THE US CONGRESS.

4. I SAID THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT BELIEVED PEREZ DE CUELLAR WAS THE RIGHT MAN FOR 2 CRUCIAL TASKS. THE FIRST WAS TO CARRY OUT A NUMBER OF REFORMS INTERNALLY IN THE UNITED NATIONS SO AS TO PRODUCE A MORE EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION. THE WAY FORWARD LAY THROUGH THE APPROVAL OF THE G18 REPORT AND THEN ITS IMPLEMENTATION. WE LOOKED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO TAKE A LEAD AND, IF HE DID SO, WE WOULD GIVE HIM FULL SUPPORT. THE SECOND TASK WAS TO ASSIST THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN RESOLVING ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS. THIS WOULD BE MORE EASILY ACHIEVED (AS THE SECRETARY-

GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

GENERAL HAD HIMSELF OBSERVED) IF THERE WAS PROGRESS IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS. THE PRESENT JOINT APPROACH BY THE 5 PERMANENT MEMBERS WAS A HAPPY AUGURY AND REPRESENTED A READINESS TO WORK TOGETHER WHICH NEEDED TO BE CARRIED OVER INTO OTHER PROBLEMS.

5. AMBASSADOR DE KEMOULARIA SPOKE SIMILARLY FOR FRANCE, STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF A SLIMMING DOWN OF THE UN STRUCTURE. HE SPOKE GLOWINGLY OF THE INDEPENDENT ROLE A SECRETARY-GENERAL COULD PLAY. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR SHOWED SIGNS OF RESTLESSNESS AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL INTERVENED TO SAY THAT IN HIS VIEW THE CHARTER PRESCRIBED THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WAS THE SERVANT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND HE WOULD ALWAYS WISH TO ACT IN THE CLOSEST CONCERT WITH THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND NOTABLY WITH ITS 5 PERMANENT MEMBERS.

6. THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS SET ON THE PATH OF REFORM. THEY KNEW FROM THIS EXPERIENCE THAT REFORM WAS NO EASY MATTER, BUT UNQUESTIONABLY THE UN NEEDED A GOOD DEAL OF REFORMING. HIS DELEGATION WOULD GIVE THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SUPPORT IN THIS DIFFICULT TASK.

7. AMBASSADOR WALTERS ALSO SPOKE IN FAVOUR OF THE NECESSITY OF REFORM AND OF A BUDGETARY PROCESS WHICH PROCEEDED BY CONSENSUS AND GAVE DUE WEIGHT TO THE MAIN CONTRIBUTORS. (THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD ME THAT CHINA WAS NOT, REPEAT NOT, PREPARED TO INSIST ON CONSENSUS. FRANKLY THEY DID NOT TRUST THE U S TO BEHAVE IN A ''UN-SPIRITED'' MANNER.) THE SECRETARY-GENERAL NOTED THE DIFFICULTY OF REFORM BUT EXPRESSED HIS DETERMINATION TO CARRY IT OUT, THOUGH WITH FAIRNESS TO ALL CONCERNED.

8. AFTER HIS ORIGINAL STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR A SECOND TERM FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, AMBASSADOR BELONOGOV SAID NOTHING. HOWEVER, HE SMILED HAPPILY WHEN PEREZ DE CUELLAR NOTED THE APPROPRIATE SYMBOLISM OF OUR ACCIDENTAL SEATING WHICH HAD PLACED THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO HIS LEFT AND THE US AMBASSADOR TO HIS RIGHT. PEREZ DE CUELLAR SAID THAT THE SIGNS OF AN IMPROVING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO SUPER POWERS HAD BEEN INFLUENTIAL IN HIS READINESS TO SERVE A SECOND TERM.

9. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS MEETING THE 5 AMBASSADORS CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (THE UAE AMBASSADOR). THE FIVE INFORMED HIM THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WAS WILLING TO SERVE A SECOND TERM AND THAT THEY WOULD GIVE HIM THEIR SUPPORT. IT WAS INVITED TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE FIVE AS TO NEXT STEPS. IT SUGGESTED THE PRESIDENT MIGHT LIKE TO CONSULT THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL INDIVIDUALLY TELLING THEM OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S WILLINGNESS

TO SERVE AGAIN. IF, AS I HOPED, THERE WAS UNANIMITY, HE WOULD NO DOUBT WISH PERSONALLY TO INFORM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. IN SUCH AN EVENT I SUGGESTED THAT HE SHOULD MEET WITH THE LEGAL ADVISERS OF THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS TO MAKE SURE THAT THERE WAS FULL UNDERSTANDING ON PROCEDURES. I BELIEVED THAT IT MIGHT BE FOUND CONVENIENT FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO MEET IN FORMAL PRIVATE SESSION ON THE MORNING OF FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER TO ELECT PEREZ DE CUELLAR AND FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO MEET THE SAME AFTERNOON FOR THE SAME PURPOSE. (I HAD EARLIER IN THE DAY CONFIRMED WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THIS PROCEDURE WOULD BE CONVENIENT.) THE UAE AMBASSADOR LOOKED GRATIFIED AND SEEMED READY TO ACT ACCORDINGLY.

10. THE FIVE AMBASSADORS AGREED THAT, IF ASKED WHY THEY HAD CALLED JOINTLY ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (THOUGH OF COURSE WE WOULD DO OUR BEST TO AVOID PUBLICITY), WE WOULD SAY THAT WE HAD CALLED TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. IF ASKED WHY WE HAD CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, WE WOULD REPLY THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED SECURITY COUNCIL BUSINESS AND REFUSE TO BE DRAWN BEYOND THAT.

THOMSON

YYYY

NFLNAN 5248

LIMITED

HD/UND
PS
PS/MR EGGAR
PS/PUS
MR THOMAS
MR BRAITHWAITE
MR SLATER

PM: Meeting with
Aga Khan feb 83

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister ②

CDP

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30/9

30 September 1986

Dear Charles

Good

Prime Minister's Meeting with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan

Your letter of 23 September reported the Prime Minister's meeting with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan.

We are not surprised to hear of his lobbying for the UN Secretary-Generalship. He has been active in promoting his interest in the post for some time and spoke to Sir Antony Acland on the subject in April and July.

Sir John Thomson has reported from New York that the five Permanent Members of the Security Council have agreed to act together in order to work for the early re-election of Sr Perez de Cuellar. The Secretary-General appears to have recovered well from his heart operation in early August - he certainly looked fit when the Foreign Secretary saw him last week - and the indications are still that he would be willing to continue in office provided that he had general support. The Africans have also agreed to support him if he is willing to continue.

Subject to any dramatic developments over the Secretary-General's health (or, just conceivably, on the financial crisis in the UN) it is our expectation that the necessary procedures in the Security Council and General Assembly to re-elect Sr Perez de Cuellar will be completed in the course of October, thus leaving the Secretary-General to concentrate on the important issues of the General Assembly and the financial problems.

Yours ever

Robin (Culshaw)

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES PREM 19 PIECE/ITEM 2417/1 (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
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Use black or blue pen to complete form.

Use the card for one piece or for each extract removed from a different place within a piece.

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eg. 28, 1079, 84/1, 107/3

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NOTE FOR THE RECORD

CDP discussed the possibility of the Prime Minister seeing Prince Sadruddin at the end of the diary meeting. She agreed. I consequently found a slot on Tuesday 23 September at 1700.

CR.

CAROLINE RYDER

2 September 1986

Caroline

Prince Sadruddin works ½ hour in Sept./Oct. I said ring back on 1 Sept. no use if we can find a date. She likes him. CDM.

10 DOWNING STREET

CHARLES

Mr. Keating has telephoned from Geneva (he is secretary to Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan). If you have a suitable opportunity, he would appreciate it if you could ring him.

(He apparently didn't want to speak to any other Private Secretary).

Debbie Green

4 August 1986

FILE

KW

cc: HO
AJC
MA

10 DOWNING STREET

23 June, 1983

From the Private Secretary

Further to our telephone conversation this morning, I am writing to confirm that the Aga Khan has now postponed his visit to this country until the autumn.

We shall wait to hear from you again when the Aga Khan's future plans have been finalised.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

John Wheeler, Esq., J.P., M.P.

Bf

cc MA HL

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

22 June 1983

I am replying to your letter to Michael Alison of 14 June about the visit to this country of the Aga Khan.

I hope you have now received my letter of 16 June and I enclose a further copy.

Could you please confirm that this time will be convenient?

CS

John Wheeler, Esq., M.P.

10 DOWNING STREET

John

Could you please advise so that Michael Alison can reply to John Wheeler?

Thanks.

Caroline

You were asking?

21/6

Tessa
21.6.83

File

DEG

cc: FCO, HO } requesting brief for meeting.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 June 1983

Further to your letter of 21 April to Ian Gow regarding the visit to this country of the Aga Khan, I am now writing to let you know the Prime Minister would be very happy to receive him on Wednesday 6 July at 0915 hours.

I should be grateful if you would kindly confirm whether this time is convenient.

Caroline Stephens

John Wheeler, Esq., J.P., M.P.

From: John Wheeler, J.P., M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

14th June 1983

Dear Michael,

I refer to ~~your~~ Ian Gow's letter of the 17th May, a copy of which I enclose, together with a copy of the reply I have received from the President of the Aga Khan Council in the United Kingdom.

Is it possible for the Prime Minister to meet the request made for a brief visit to No. 10 on the 6th July, or on some other convenient date?

Yours ever,

John.

Michael Alison

~~Ian Gow,~~ Esq., M.P.,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE AGA KHAN SHIA IMAMI ISMAILIA
COUNCIL FOR THE U.K.

TELEGRAMS:
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OVERSEAS: HAKIKATI, LONDON W.8
TELEX: 268816 – A/B HAKIKI G

3/5 PALACE GATE
KENSINGTON
LONDON W8 5LS
TEL: 01-584 3221/2

19th May 1983

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

Thank you for meeting us at such short notice on Saturday 14th May.

I was extremely happy to hear from you that a reception at No: 10 Downing Street will be possible during His Highness The Aga Khan's visit to the United Kingdom between 6th and 9th July 1983, (our preferred date would be Wednesday, 6th July, either during lunch hour or between 2.30 and 5.30 p.m.).

As kindly suggested by you, I am going ahead with the arrangements of a Banquet at the Guildhall and hope that the Prime Minister will be able to attend.

If this is not possible, I would appreciate your assistance in ensuring that a Senior member of the Cabinet will be the guest of honour. We have fixed the date of the Banquet for Wednesday, 6th July, 1983 at 7.30 p.m.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course but in the meantime, allow me to wish you a very successful election Campaign.

With kind regards.

Sincerely

Amir Shah

John Wheeler Esq., J.P. M.P.
House of Commons
London SW1A OAA

Wheeler

17th May 1983

Unfortunately, the Prime Minister is not able to be the Guest of Honour at a Banquet which is being given for the Aga Khan on 6th July owing to a long-standing previous engagement.

However, the Prime Minister does hope to receive the Aga Khan when he is in London in July.

With best wishes for a triumphant result in Westminster South.

IAN GOW

John Wheeler Esq JP

cc Mr. Flesher

MR. GOW

The Aga Khan

John Wheeler wrote to you on 21 April suggesting that:

(a) the Prime Minister should be the guest of honour at a banquet for the Aga Khan on 6 July;

(b) failing that, she should receive the Aga Khan during his visit here in July.

The Prime Minister cannot do (a), since she has another engagement. However she has agreed in principle to do (b). We shall fix a date after the election.

You may care to convey this information to Mr. Wheeler.

A.S.C.

13 May 1983

AJC

You asked FCO and Home Office for advice on a request from Wheeler MP that the PM should receive the Aga Khan during his visit in July. The Home Office response is attached. FCO have told me that they have assumed that no response is required until the outcome of the election is known.

Agree that we b/f until after the election?

Mark
12/5.

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

①

Prime Minister

Agree in principle to receive the Aga Khan in July?

A.J.C. 11/5

Yes

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SWIH 9AT

5 May 1983

Dear John,

We spoke earlier this week about your letter of 25 April to John Holmes about the possibility of the Prime Minister receiving His Highness the Aga Khan in the course of his forthcoming visit here.

The Aga Khan is, as you are probably aware, spiritual leader of the Ismaeli Muslims throughout the world. In this country, the Ismaelis are a small, prosperous community, not prominent in race relations terms.

In his own right, the Aga Khan is of course a well-known and respected personality world wide and has been honoured by the Queen with the personal title of 'His Highness'. He has many important connections in the world of finance and business, and like his grandfather has played a leading part in the European racing scene. He has had a number of recent contacts with the Home Secretary, primarily on personal business.

We should therefore see no reason why the Prime Minister should not receive the Aga Khan, and indeed the Home Secretary would strongly encourage her to do so, subject to the views of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Pallett.

MRS L PALLETT

A J Coles, Esq

PM: Meeting with Aga Khan

Feb 1983

Caroline

before I propose this, in the S.R.

free for dinner on 6 Aug?

A-d.c. 25/4

No – P.M. dining with Mr Speaker.

C. 25/4

E.R.

John Coles

THE AGA KHAN

1. Herewith letter dated 21st April from John Wheeler, plus enclosure, and copy of my reply of today's date.

2. May I have your advice, please, about the recommendation which John Wheeler makes in the fourth paragraph of his letter?

25.4.83

IAN GOW

Kay
Yours? I am happy to take it if you think it is not for you
MD 26/4

CC HO

HL
cc IG

BY 12/5

The AGA KHAN

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 April 1983

Mr. John Wheeler, M.P. has written about the visit by the Aga Khan to this country in July.

He has conveyed a request from the President of the Aga Khan Council in the UK that the Prime Minister should be the guest of honour at a Silver Jubilee Banquet to be held in the Guildhall on Wednesday 6 July. The Prime Minister will not be able to accept since she is dining with the Speaker on that evening.

Mr. Wheeler further recommends that the Prime Minister should receive the Aga Khan during his visit. I should be grateful for any advice which you and Tony Rawsthorne would wish to offer about this request.

I am copying this letter to Tony Rawsthorne (Home Office).

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

10 DOWNING STREET

25th April 1983

Many thanks for your letter of 21st April, with which you enclosed an original letter dated 13th April, which you had received from Amir Bhatia.

I am sorry to say that the Prime Minister has a very long-standing commitment to dine in London on Wednesday 6th July, which means that she cannot accept the very kind invitation that she should be the Guest of Honour at the Silver Jubliee Banquet which is to be held in the Guildhall on that day.

I will be in touch with you again about the recommendation which you make in the fourth paragraph of your letter.

IAN GOW

John Wheeler Esq JP MP

From: John Wheeler, J.P., M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SWIA OAA

21st April 1983

My Dear Ian,

I mentioned to you a little while ago that the Aga Khan community numbering some 10,000 persons in the U.K., were anxious to involve the Prime Minister in the Aga Khan's visit to this country.

As you know, the Aga Khan's community are all in business and frightfully rich!

The President of the Aga Kahn Council in the U.K., with whom I have had a discussion, has sent me the enclosed six page letter. I have marked the key points on p.2. and p.4, 5, & 6.

The principal request is that the Prime Minister should be the Guest of Honour at the Silver Jubilee banquet to be held in the Guildhall on Wednesday, 6th July. It will, as you will see, be an important occasion. Failing the Prime Minister's attendance, I would recommend that she receives the Aga Kahn at No. 10 at some point during his visit to the country.

Will you let me know how we are to proceed as I keep a close eye on this community on behalf of our Party.

Yours ever,
JW.

Ian Gow, Esq., T.D., M.P.,
No. 10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

21-4-1983

HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE AGA KHAN SHIA IMAMI ISMAILIA COUNCIL FOR THE U.K.

TELEGRAMS:
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3/5 PALACE GATE
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TEL: 01-584 3221/2

April 13, 1983.

Mr. John Wheeler, M.P.,
House of Commons,
Westminster,
LONDON, S.W. 1

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

Let me begin by expressing my deep gratitude for having met me on Thursday, March 31, at Mr. Badru Virani's hotel. The exchange of views on matters of general interest, and particularly on the main features of a programme connected with His Highness the Aga Khan's forthcoming visit to the United Kingdom in July 1983, was most useful. As discussed, a major event in this programme will be a banquet to be hosted by His Highness, to which we would like to invite the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, to be the Guest of Honour.

At your request, so as to enable you to discuss the programme further with your colleagues, I will attempt to explain in this letter the significance of the visit, situating it within a worldwide programme of events that have either already taken place or are being planned. I also enclose supporting documents which provide more detailed information in this respect.

His Highness the Aga Khan completed twenty-five years of his Imamat (i.e. leadership) of the Ismaili Muslims in July 1982, having succeeded his grandfather, the late Sir Sultan Mohammed Shah Aga Khan on July 11, 1957. At the time of his accession, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth graciously conferred the dignity of His Highness in recognition of prominent services rendered to the Commonwealth and to the cause of peace by his predecessors and community.

..../2

The Ismaili community, numbering some 15 million and living in over 25 countries, is celebrating His Highness's Silver Jubilee during the year July 11, 1982 to July 11, 1983. In the Ismaili tradition, although Jubilees have no real religious significance, they serve as symbolic affirmations of the Ismaili Imamat's commitment to improving conditions of life, especially in the poorer countries of the developing world.

The primary purpose of the Silver Jubilee Year, therefore, both nationally and internationally, is to successfully complete social welfare and economic development programmes which were recently initiated and to inaugurate new ones specially formulated during this commemorative year.

Because of his personal commitment to, and involvement in, an increasing number of philanthropic and development projects, His Highness has undertaken an extensive programme of visits to countries where Ismailis live. He has already visited Kenya, Tanzania, Singapore, Bangladesh, India, Portugal, United Arab Emirates and Pakistan, where he has performed, or invited other leaders to perform, opening or foundation ceremonies of a variety of institutions in the fields of education, health, housing, rural and general economic development.

During his visits to these countries, with the exception of Singapore, His Highness has been the guest of the Government and has been accorded the highest dignity by either the Head of the State, or of the Government. I enclose some of the cuttings and also statements and speeches made during these visits.

His Highness's next visit is to Canada this month. It begins in Ottawa where he will meet Prime Minister Trudeau. He will then visit the Provinces and meet heads of Provincial Governments.

The single most important Silver Jubilee project has been the establishment of the Aga Khan University in Pakistan. The Charter of this first ever private university in that country was granted to His Highness by President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan at a special ceremony in Karachi on March 16, 1983. Enclosed papers give details of the ceremony and other relevant information. The Aga Khan University, which has started with a medical college and a school of nursing in Pakistan, is unique in its concept and format. Its faculties and departments will be located in different parts of the world and its main concern will be with manpower and

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resource development critical to the Third World. We hope that the University will further establish its presence in the United Kingdom through an academic institution - the Institute of Ismaili Studies - that was set up by His Highness in 1977 in London. Amongst its primary objects, the Institute is expected to deal with issues of central concern to the contemporary Muslim society, and how Muslims seek to relate their heritage to the conditions of the modern world.

In the United Kingdom, the central focus during the Silver Jubilee Year is on two projects that are international in the scope of their aims and functions. The first is the Ismaili Centre, now nearing completion. Occupying a prominent site opposite the Victoria and Albert Museum on Cromwell Road, the Centre comprises a large social hall, a prayer hall, conference/lecture facilities, a roof garden, and a purpose-built public exhibition gallery. In addition to meeting the needs of the Ismaili community, the Centre is intended to provide a range of services to the public at large, from a specialist reading room to hosting lectures, international conferences, seminars and exhibitions.

The second major institution in the United Kingdom is the Institute of Ismaili Studies to which I have referred earlier in the context of the Aga Khan University. It was established in 1977 for the purpose of encouraging scholarship and learning in Islam and a better understanding of its relationship with other faiths and cultures.

Primarily a graduate teaching and research institution, the Institute collaborates with several leading universities both in the United Kingdom and abroad. It has been affiliated with McGill University of Canada since 1980, with which it offers a cooperative Master of Arts degree programme in Islamic Studies.

The Institute also enjoys an excellent relationship with the University of London Institute of Education (ULIE), with whom it has recently initiated several programmes on education manpower development. It recently sponsored 41 students from different parts of the world at ULIE for M.A. and diploma programmes, one of the latter specially mounted for training specialists in preparing curricular material for Islamic education.

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Recently, the Institute has concluded a tripartite agreement on a combined M.A. programme for training education manpower for Muslim, and generally Third World, countries. It will be a four-year programme offered by the Institute, ULIE and McGill University, and lead to an M.A. degree in Education from the University of London, an M.A. degree in Islamics from McGill, and a joint credential from the three cooperating institutions.

At present, the Institute and ULIE are discussing the possibility of a more formal and comprehensive agreement covering joint and reciprocal programmes. Collaboration of this nature, by enabling the Institute to develop a range of graduate programmes,is expected to greatly facilitate its progress towards university status, hopefully as a constituent unit of the Aga Khan University.

In addition to the above two institutions, reference ought to be made to the Aga Khan Foundation (UK) (AKF(UK)). A registered charity, AKF(UK) is affiliated to the Aga Khan Foundation, Geneva, a non-communal organisation established in 1967 as the Imamat's primary agency for humanitarian social welfare programmes. AKF(UK) is now beginning to build up a closer working relationship with the Overseas Development Administration to which it hopes to put forward, in the near future, a joint funding proposal in support of a rural development project in the Northern Provinces of Pakistan. It is also likely that Oxfam will participate in this project, and with whom AKF already has a close working relationship.

Finally, before discussing the actual programme of His Highness's visit to the United Kingdom, it will be helpful if I give a brief profile of the Ismaili community in this country. Historically, the community has had a presence in the United Kingdom for many years, but in much smaller numbers consisting mainly of students and visiting businessmen from Commonwealth countries such as East Africa, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Today, the Ismailis in the United Kingdom number over 10,000, majority of them from East Africa, who settled here in the early 1970s as a result of the events that took place in Uganda, and to some extent in Tanzania. By virtue of their own adaptability, deriving from a strong background in education and business, the community was able to settle down without much difficulty within a reasonably short span of time. The process of settlement was greatly eased by the moral and material support available from the community institutions and by

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the outstanding generosity of the British Government and people. The community's long tradition of voluntary self-help and hard work has enabled many Ismailis to get reestablished in new businesses and professional practices. I have enclosed a short summary of the types of businesses and professions in which the members of the community are engaged.

A prominent example of self-help is a guarantee loan plan that the community operates in collaboration with the Lloyds Bank. Under this scheme, the Lloyds Bank provides loans to people who wish to enter into businesses or independent professional practices for the first time. As a result of this scheme, about 280 families have gone into business since 1976 when it started. Todate, there have been only four defaulters.

The community has also arranged a special mutually beneficial facility with Abbey National and Woolwich Building Societies, whereby members of the community channel savings through these Societies who, in turn, provide home mortgages to those recommended by the community. About 70% of the members of the community now own their own homes.

Having explained at some length the context of His Highness's forthcoming visit in July this year, let me recap the major events and meetings which are being planned for the visit and on which we were able to exchange useful views at our meeting on March 31.

1. It is expected that the Ismaili Centre on Cromwell Road in Kensington will be completed in time for its opening ceremony to be performed during the visit.

2. The Institute of Ismaili Studies and University of London Institute of Education will host a joint convocation for the presentation of the University's, the Institute's and their combined credentials to the students of the Institute. The ceremony will also be the occasion for inaugurating the combined M.A. degree programme in Education and Islamic Studies to be offered by the Institute, ULIE and McGill University.

3. We are considering proposing a meeting with officials of O.D.A. for the purpose of reviewing co-funding proposals, and future collaboration in development efforts between the Aga Khan Foundation (UK) and the ODA.

   A similar meeting is to be arranged with Oxfam to further review areas in which the Aga Khan Foundation and Oxfam can work together.

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4. It is envisaged that His Highness will deliver an address at the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

   We are also considering the possibility of an address to the Confederation of British Industries.

5. As a major highlight of the programme, His Highness will host a Silver Jubilee Banquet, to which we would like to invite the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, to be the Guest of Honour. The Banquet will be held at the Guildhall on Wednesday, July 6, 1983.

   Some 700 guests are to be invited to the Banquet, among whom there will be diplomats from the Commonwealth and Muslim countries, leading representatives of the academic community, the professions, public service, international agencies, and leaders in commerce, industry and finance. His Highness will speak at the Banquet about the community's and his own contributions to the Third World countries and the world of Islam. We very much hope that it will be possible for Mrs Thatcher to accept our invitation to be the Chief Guest of Honour at the Banquet.

I hope that this letter and the accompanying documents provide the information you have requested. Should you need further clarification on any matter, please do not let me know.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Amir Bhatia
PRESIDENT

Enc.

AB/stl

The National Archives

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Prime Minister
file

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 February 1983

Ethiopian Imperial Family

You will recall (my letter to you of 8 February refers) that when Prince Sadruddin was here on 8 February, he raised with the Prime Minister the possibility of some action to persuade Mengistu to release the members of the Ethiopian Imperial Family who are still being detained. Sir Antony Acland had a word with King Hussein about this here today, following the Prime Minister's lunch for the latter.

After King Hussein had gone, the Prime Minister asked whether it would be useful for her to send a message to Mrs. Gandhi with the aim of persuading her to raise this question with Mengistu at the forthcoming Non-Aligned Summit. I should be grateful for early advice and, if appropriate, a draft message.

BF

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

NR

SUBJECT

FILE Sir PM cc Master

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 February, 1983

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan

Thank you for your letter of 3 February. This is just to record that Prince Sadruddin called on the Prime Minister for 45 minutes at 9.30 this morning.

He described the latest state of play on his study of the relationship between human rights violations and mass exoduses. He urged that governments should ensure that the study did not simply "wither away" in the UN General Assembly. He believed that there was a need to examine the role of UK agencies in preventing mass exoduses rather than simply coping with their consequences. He also thought it important that the priorities of foreign aid should be redefined, again with the objective of preventing exoduses. Prestige projects should receive a lower priority and the general approach should be development "from the bottom up".

Prince Sadruddin said that he had also just had a meeting in Amman of an independent commission on the New International Humanitanian Order. The commission was to have a balanced North/South distribution and would be funded by both developed and developing countries. It would be working for a period of 2-3 years and would attempt to update international law in the human rights field, including the Geneva Conventions. It would also examine the effectiveness of assistance in the case of man-made and natural disasters and also consider violations of human rights. There was some discussion of whether it would be useful to have another World Refugee Year. The Prime Minister made the point that the UN frequently searches for rather artificial new topics for special Years whereas, in fact, there would be merit in selecting some old topics again. Prince Sadruddin said that he thought it important that there should not be too much differentiation between refugees in the legal sense of the term and victims of exodus.

Prince Sadruddin said that Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan had recently raised with him the plight of the members of the former Royal Family still detained in Ethiopia. They were in a very distressed condition. He wondered whether it would be possible to persuade one of the Communist governments with influence in

/Ethiopia

Ethiopia to intervene with Mengistu. Perhaps the Soviet Union would be the best bet. Other candidates mentioned in the discussion were President Nimeri and Mrs. Gandhi.

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 February 1983

For meeting Calder.

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Copy: Sir A. Parsons.

Dear John,

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan

In reply to your enquiry of 27 October about Prince Sadruddin I wrote to you on 4 and 12 November 1982 with some background information on the Prince's activities.

I understand that the Prime Minister will be seeing Prince Sadruddin on 8 February. I attach a short brief for the Prime Minister's use together with a short biographical note on the Prince. We can of course supply a copy of the study on human rights and mass exoduses if the Prime Minister would like to see it.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

UNS 026/2

CALL ON PRIME MINISTER BY PRINCE SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN

POINTS TO MAKE

Human Rights and Mass Exoduses

1. Sadruddin's study much appreciated; a promising basis for further discussion. References to importance of genuine democracy and unhappy correlation between mass exoduses and violations of political rights are particularly significant.

New International Humanitarian Order (if raised)

2. UK supports Jordanian initiative and welcomes establishment of Independent Commission: these sensitive matters more easily discussed outside the UN system.

(If pressed)

3. May be difficult to find UK member with appropriate qualifications. Understand Sadruddin in touch with prominent MPs through British Refugee Council.

United Nations Department
1 February 1983

ESSENTIAL FACTS

Mass Exoduses

1. A Canadian initiative, originally put forward at the 1980 Human Rights Commission, led to the appointment in April 1981 of Prince Sadruddin to produce a study of the relationship between human rights violations and mass exoduses.

2. Although the study was fair and balanced, some countries insisted on the deletion of the sections containing background studies and case histories which they felt put them in an unfavourable light. Report discussed at 1982 General Assembly but referred back to Human Rights Commission.

(Not for use)

3. Certain of Sadruddin's recommendations (changes in nationality and labour law and asylum practice; internationalisation of aid) present particular problems for the UK, others could involve increased UN expenditure, which we oppose. Proposal to appoint a Special Representative for Humanitarian Affairs might jeopardise the eventual appointment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights.

NIHO

4. Proposal for a new international humanitarian order first made by Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan at 1981 General Assembly, but in vague terms. Jordanians at first uncertain how to proceed. Commission now set up on 'Brandt' lines to study question further. Sadruddin a member and helping with recruitment of members.

5. UK View: better to work for updating and improving existing mechanisms in the human rights field (as long as their effectiveness is not impaired in the process) rather than wholesale reconstruction of present order.

6. Mr Heath, Lord Carrington and Sir Ian Gilmour invited to participate in Commission but all declined.

Bellerive Foundation

7. Set up by Sadruddin to promote conservation of natural

/resources

resources and protection of the environment. Also designs simple technology for use in developing countries. Sadruddin awarded 1982 Alexander F Onassis Foundation's 'Olympia' prize for its activities.

United Nations Department
1 February 1983

PRINCE SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN

Born Paris 1933, son of the late Sultan Mohamed Shah Aga Khan (and uncle of the present Head of the Ismaili Sect, The Aga Khan).

Married 1957 Nina Sheila Dwyer; 1972 Catherine Sursock.

Educated privately and at Ecole Nouvelle Lausanne, Harvard University, Harvard Graduate School (Arts and Science).

UNESCO: Consultant for Afro Asian Projects, 1958.

Adviser to UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 1959-60.

UNESCO: Special Consultant to Director-General, 1961.

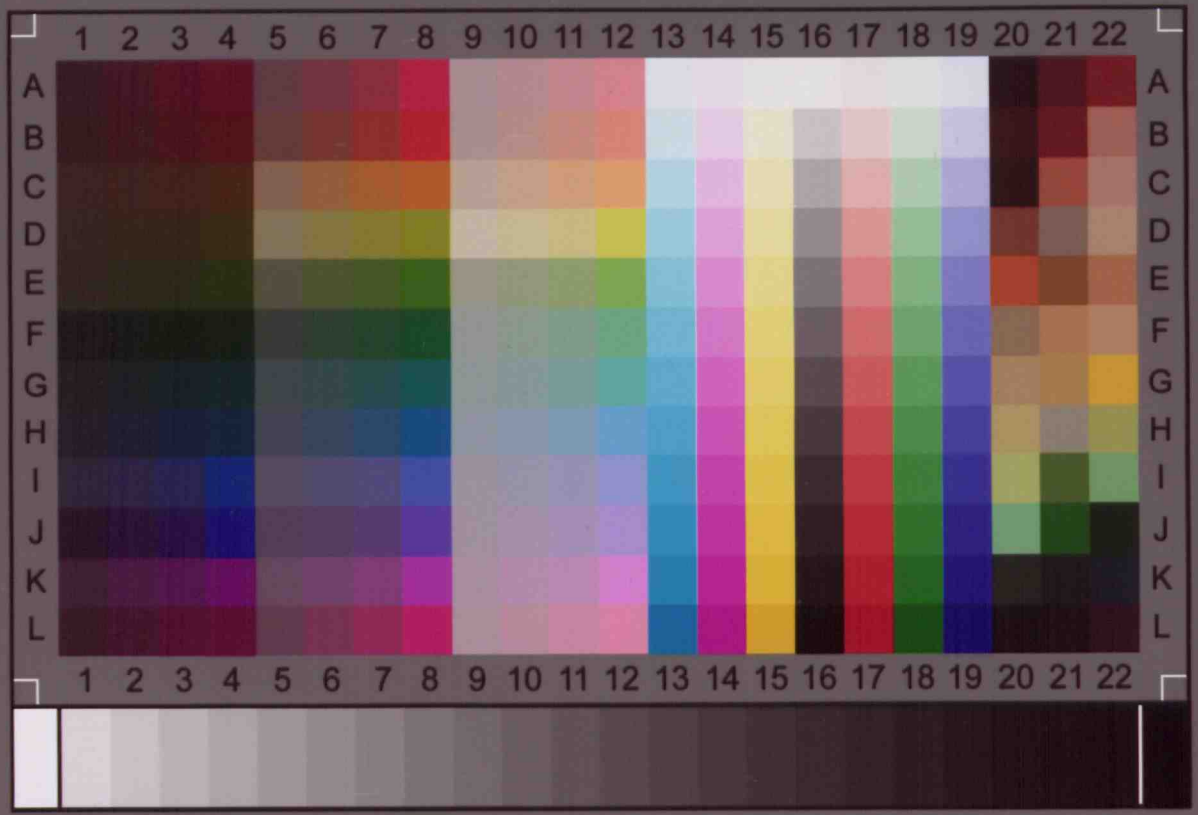
Executive Secretary, International Action Committee for Preservation of Nubian Monuments, 1961.

UN Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, 1962-65.

High Commissioner, 1965-77.

Consultant to UN Secretary-General, 1978.

Founder Member and President of the Bellerive Foundation, Geneva.



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