

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.  $\frac{12}{2}$

I must pay the £1,191. We can therefore say that no other 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. Saltison  
To see. Let's use £1191.

A.F.C.  $\frac{11.}{2}$

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
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Total cost to taxpayer:	£1,190.95
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Yours ever,  
*F N Richards*  
(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street