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DESKBY 021000Z
FM DAR ES SALAAM 020735Z MAR 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TEL NO 071 OF 02 MARCH 1982

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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 36/82

MIPT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NYERERE
TO THE PRIME MINISTER

subject copy filed as:-

DEAR MRS. THATCHER,

Security: Hijacking of

I WRITE TO EXPRESS MY OWN VERY DEEP APPRECIATION
AND THANKS, AS WELL AS THAT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND
PEOPLE OF TANZANIA, TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND TO
THE BRITISH POLICE FOR THE ACTIONS WHICH BROUGHT TO
A SATISFACTORY END THE HI-JACKING OF THE TANZANIAN PLANE.

Tanzanian Plane Feb 82

YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THE ANXIETY AND THE FEELING OF
HELPLESSNESS HERE WHEN WE HEARD THAT THE PLANE HAD BEEN
TAKEN OVER. WE REALISED THAT WE WERE ENTIRELY DEPENDENT
UPON THE GOODWILL AND THE CAPACITY OF THOSE COUNTRIES
WHERE THE HI-JACKERS CHOSE TO LAND. WHEN THERE SEEMED TO
BE A POSSIBILITY THAT THEY WOULD FORCE THE PLANE TO COME
TO BRITAIN, I THEREFORE CALLED SIR PETER MOON, YOUR HIGH
COMMISSIONER HERE, TO ASK FOR BRITISH HELP. BEFORE I
COULD DO SO HE ASSURED ME THAT BRITAIN WOULD BRING THE
HI-JACK TO AN END. I DID APPRECIATE THIS IMMEDIATE
GESTURE.

EVEN SO, HI-JACKERS ARE UNPREDICTABLE. I WOULD
THEREFORE LIKE TO PAY A VERY GENUINE TRIBUTE TO
MR. WILLIAM WHITELAW WHO TOOK OVERALL CHARGE OF THE
OPERATION AND PREPARED FOR ANY EVENTUALITY. I WOULD ALSO
LIKE TO PAY A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT BUNYARD, THE
CHIEF CONSTABLE OF THE ESSEX POLICE, AND ALL THOSE WHO
WORKED UNDER HIS DIRECTION. IT WAS A TREMENDOUS
ACHIEVEMENT TO PERSUADE THE HI-JACKERS TO RELEASE ALL THE
HOSTAGES, AND FINALLY TO SURRENDER THEMSELVES WITHOUT
DAMAGING THE PLANE. I REALISE THE STRAIN THAT MUST HAVE
BEEN FELT BY ALL THOSE AT STANSTED AIRPORT THROUGHOUT
THEIR LONG NEGOTIATIONS WITH THESE UNKNOWN BUT ARMED
INDIVIDUALS.

I AM VERY HAPPY INDEED THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO
TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD HAVE INVOLVED RISK TO THE
LIFE OF ANY PERSON, BUT I DO NOT IN CONSEQUENCE
UNDERESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTY OF WHAT WAS DONE. NOR AM
I LACKING IN APPRECIATION OF THOSE WHO 'STOOD BY' IN

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CASE SOME OTHER KIND OF ACTION PROVED TO BE UNAVOIDABLE.

AS IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO THANK ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THIS OPERATION I SHALL BE FURTHER INDEBTED TO YOU IF YOU WOULD CONVEY TO THE BRITISH PEOPLE THE GRATEFUL THANKS OF ALL TANZANIANS.

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SEND MY WARM PERSONAL GREETINGS AND GOOD WISHES TO YOU. I AM TOLD THAT YOU YOURSELF SPENT A LONG TIME AT STANSTED ENSURING THAT EVERYTHING WENT WELL, AND CAN ONLY SAY THAT I DO APPRECIATE THIS DEMONSTRATION OF YOUR PERSONAL CONCERN.

YOURS SINCERELY,
JULIUS K. NYERERE

MOON

HI-JACKING: NON-BRITISH AIRCRAFT

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