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**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE**
SERIAL No. T164/82

cc. Haris
Subject - ~~Defense~~ Sales # 2

10 DOWNING STREET
Pakistan Military Aid Jan 80

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 August, 1982.

Dear Mr. President,

When we met in Pakistan last year, and I still have happy memories of the fascinating day we spent together, we had a brief discussion about the possible supply of British military equipment to Pakistan. At that time you were thinking of buying HMS LONDON for your Navy and I was delighted to hear that the sale and delivery of PNS BABUR, as she is now called, went so smoothly and that the Flagship of the Pakistan Navy remains a British built ship.

I understand that you are now contemplating the purchase of new frigates and that among the suppliers being considered is Vosper Thornycroft Ltd. Their offer, which includes provision for 100% credit financing, is, as I think you will know, backed by the British Government, who have agreed to provide a significant proportion of the credit through the Export Credit Guarantee Department.

There has, of course, been much discussion of the role of frigates as a result of the recent battles in the Falklands and I wanted to let you know that in our considered opinion the Type 21 frigates, which Vosper Thornycroft are offering you, performed magnificently throughout this most successful campaign and fully

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lived up to our expectations. It now has the unique advantage that it has been battle tested in some of the most severe weather conditions in the world and in an adverse air situation. You as a soldier will know better than I how important it is that equipment, which men may have to use in battle, should be tested in this way. The Type 21 has proved itself to be a fine ship of sound design and popular with its crews; mechanically reliable and a stable weapons platform. Of course, no untested ship is ever perfect and if as a result of our experience in the Falklands, some improvements have been found to be desirable, these would, of course, be included in any ships built for Pakistan should you place your order with Vosper Thornycroft. So you would get ships which incorporate the lessons learnt from the most recent and most testing battle experience.

I need not elaborate on the other benefits to the Pakistan Navy of having their ships built in a British shipyard. Co-operation between our two navies has been particularly close since 1947. We share many of the same naval traditions, have common training and operation procedures and, of course, a shared language.

I am confident that if you decide to buy the Vosper Thornycroft frigates they will serve you very well indeed for the tasks which face your country and your Navy.

Warm personal regards.

Yours sincerely

His Excellency General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq,

Nayant Nathani