

OPS in MATTER
SUBJECT: Japan: Relations
A3

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T.105^A/183

DWF G 061/18

1003/18

212 693

See Para. 4

DD

LDX 740/18

LDW NR 479/18

MR BUTLER, No 10,
DOWNING ST

OO FCO DESKBY 181200Z

GR 570

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DEDIP

FM TOKYO 180900Z JUL 83

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NO 379 OF 18 JULY

IMMEDIATE

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING PERSONAL TO BUTLER, PRIVATE SECRETARY, NUMBER 10.

NISSAN

1. MR KAWAMATA'S OFFICE PASSED TO US THIS AFTERNOON A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM HIM TO THE PRIME MINISTER. UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES I WOULD HAVE FORWARDED THIS LETTER UNOPENED TO YOU BY BAG. HOWEVER, WITH THE DTI TEAM ARRIVING HERE ON 22 JULY, THE BAG SCHEDULE WOULD NOT HAVE PERMITTED THE LETTER TO REACH YOU IN TIME FOR IT TO BE CONSIDERED BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTERS INVOLVED. I HAVE THEREFORE TAKEN THE EXCEPTIONAL STEP OF OPENING THE LETTER MYSELF.

2. THE TEXT OF THE LETTER IS AS FOLLOWS:

DEAR MADAME PRIME MINISTER,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR LETTER OF 15 JUNE , 1983. PLEASE ACCEPT ONCE AGAIN MY HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR LANDSLIDE VICTORY IN THE RECENT ELECTION.

IT HAS ALREADY BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE I WROTE TO YOU IN APRIL TO THE EFFECT THAT OUR POLICY WAS TO ARRIVE AT A CONCLUSION AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE, AND THAT I WOULD CONTACT YOU IMMEDIATELY UPON OUR DECISION BEING REACHED.

MEANWHILE, YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSED HOPE AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY THAT NISSAN WOULD PASS A FAVOURABLE DECISION ON THE U K PROJECT. I HAVE TO SAY THAT I COULD NOT HELP BECOMING IRRITATED EACH TIME I CAME TO LEARN OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUED EXPRESSION OF ITS WISHES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MATTER.

I LEARNED FROM NEWSPAPER REPORTS AS WELL AS FROM YOUR LETTER THAT YOU INDICATED YOUR WISHES TO OUR PRIME MINISTER MR. NAKASONE AT THE WILLIAMSBURG SUMMIT LAST MAY. UPON HIS RETURN TO TOKYO, HE NOTIFIED OUR PRESIDENT ISHIHARA OF YOUR REMARKS.

AS TIME GOES BY, I AM VERY CONCERNED THAT THIS MATTER HAS BEEN TAKING ON AN INCREASING POLITICAL TINGE. I PRESUME THAT YOU HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON THE VISIT TO LONDON OF OUR MR. KAWAI, EXECUTIVE MANAGING DIRECTOR AND HIS TEAM AND ON THEIR MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY MOUNTFIELD TO SUBMIT OUR TWO PROPOSALS. WHILE I UNDERSTAND THAT THE NEXT ROUND OF THE DISCUSSIONS WILL BE HELD AT OUR HEAD OFFICE IN TOKYO FROM THE 25TH OF THIS MONTH WHEN OFFICIALS FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT ARRIVE HERE, I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE TWO PROPOSALS SUBMITTED CAN BE CONSIDERED TO BE THE BEST CONCEIVABLE ALTERNATIVES WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEVISE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILING AT THE PRESENT TIME.

I HAD THOUGHT OF MEETING WITH YOU IN PERSON TO EXPLAIN THE PURPOT BEHIND THESE PROPOSALS. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC ATTENTION WHICH HAD BEEN DRAWN TO THE MATTER IN QUESTION OF LATE, I DECIDED IT MORE PRUDENT TO DISPATCH MR. KAWAI TO LONDON.

THERE IS ONE MATTER OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE WHICH I FEEL SHOULD BE MENTIONED TO YOU AT THIS TIME. I AM EXTREMELY CONCERNED OVER THE IMPONDERABLES SURROUNDING OUR U K PROJECT WHICH WOULD STILL CONTINUE TO PERSIST EVEN AS FAR AS TEN YEARS OR MORE INTO THE FUTURE. INDEED, THIS ISSUE IS OF SUCH CONCERN THAT I HAVE COME TO BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE FOR A HIGH LEVEL OF SAFEGUARD FOR THE PROJECT IN THE LONGER TERM. THEREFORE, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOUR GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER TAKING EVERY MEASURE POSSIBLE TO RELIEVE OUR ANXIETIES IN THIS REGARD WHEN YOU COME TO REVIEW THE TWO PROPOSALS WE HAVE MADE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR KIND PERSONAL ATTENTION TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ISSUE. MEANWHILE, I WILL AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE TECHNICAL-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AT OUR HEAD OFFICE FROM JULY 25TH NEXT.

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO TAKE UP THE INVITATION YOU MADE TO ME AT OUR MEETING IN THE AKASAKE DETACHED PALACE LAST YEAR, TO EXPRESS MY FRANK OPINIONS DIRECTLY TO YOU IN THIS WAY.

IN CLOSING, PLEASE PERMIT ME TO WISH YOU EVERY CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE LEADERSHIP OF YOUR GREAT NATION,

RESPECTFULLY YOURS

KATSUJI KAWAMATA

3. IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH MR KAWAMATA ATTACHES TO HIS PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, WE HAVE NOT (NOT) TOLD THE COMPANY THAT WE ARE OPENING THE LETTER TO SEND IT BY TELEGRAM. IF NECESSARY, WE WILL MAINTAIN THE FICTION THAT WE WENT TO SPECIAL LENGTHS TO ENSURE THAT THE MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRIME MINISTER BEFORE THE DTI TEAM LEFT.

4. FCO: NO DISTRIBUTION.

CORTAZZI

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