

Subject: Chad  
Internal SITA  
NOU RI 10 DOWNING STREET



c FLO

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 September 1983

THE MINISTER OF  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T1287183

My dear Mr President,

Thank you for your message about the situation in Chad, which I received last week through your Foreign Minister.

I have been following events in Chad with close attention. I well understand the points you make about the military intervention of Libya and the counter-measures which France is taking.

Nothing can excuse Libya's aggression against its neighbour. It must not be allowed to succeed. I know that France has contractual obligations to the legitimate government in Ndjamena and that by fulfilling these she is helping to prevent the destabilisation of the region. I welcome these efforts. I was glad to be able to approve the sale to France of ground-to-air missiles for use in Chad if needed.

We share your commitment to the principles of self-determination and the peaceful resolution of disputes. We attach importance to the inviolability of established frontiers. I agree with you that the OAU has a role to play in bringing peace to Chad. The support of the UN may also be needed. We have therefore instructed our representative at the United Nations to give full support to any initiative which could help solve the problem.

/I share your

CONFIDENTIAL

I share your view that the internal disputes of the Republic of Chad are a matter for the people of that country themselves to settle.

I was most grateful for your helpful explanation of the French position and wish you well in your efforts to bring peace to this troubled country.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Deliber

—

His Excellency Monsieur Francois Mitterrand.

CONFIDENTIAL