



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 May 1982

Foreign Policy Jo B
CFCO.
original sent to
Fco for onward
transmission

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 21 April and to reply on her behalf.

Mrs Thatcher was naturally most concerned to hear of your continued imprisonment without charges having been made. Mrs Thatcher raised your case and that of other British subjects held at that time without charge, when she visited Saudi Arabia in April of last year. Our Ambassador also recently asked Prince Naif to look urgently at your case.

I understand that since you wrote to the Prime Minister you have been sentenced to two years imprisonment but that this has been backdated to the date of your original imprisonment. I very much hope that you will be able to qualify for maximum remission and be released soon.

The Consular Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have been in regular touch with your mother throughout. She is both relieved and pleased at the prospect of seeing you soon.

W. F. S. RICKETT

Mr. Charles Clark

Jo B

C.F.

DAMMAM CENTRAL PRISON
DAMMAM

R 6/5

SAUDI ARABIA.

21. 4. 82.

Madam,

My name is Charles Clark, currently being held in prison by the Saudi Arabian Authorities. It is quite possible that you do not recall the name or case but you were reported to me as having brought up my name and case to Prince Fahd and/or Prince Naif in April 1981, during your visit to Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

I was arrested on 26TH NOV. 1980 and to date, 17 months hence, have not been charged with any offence or infringement of Saudi Arabian laws. During this period I have been subjected to intensive interrogation, threats of physical violence, solitary confinement and intimidation of all sorts.

Verification of the foregoing can be obtained from your Foreign Office, who, I have been told, have been constantly interviewing, where possible, and pressing the Saudi authorities on my behalf, all of which up until now has met with no success.

Quite frankly after 17 months of suffering, as I have done, I find this very hard to believe, taking into consideration the fact that 5 men who were also held in connection with my so called "case" were released when I was being held in a Riyadh jail (further interrogation). Details of my Riyadh-Dammam transfer fiasco classed as a "bureaucratic impasse" by your Foreign Office can be had from aforementioned personell, namely TREFGARNE!

This "bureaucratic impasse" has, and is now still, costing me many more valuable months out of

my life in this "HELL-HOLE" of a prison and I am not at all sure if I can take very much more of this kind of treatment. The recent visit of your Consul General M^r Mitchell and Consul M^r Dando on Sunday 18th April 1982 could throw no further light at all on when my "case" would be brought to some kind of conclusion, it appears that they, the officials, were informed I would be "in Court"? (worst possible misuse of the word "Court" I have ever heard) on Sunday or Monday, 18th or 19th April 1982 for my second appearance before the judge. My first appearance was only a variation, of a now familiar scene to me, of additional questioning, no charges were brought. At this time of writing, nothing has transpired.

To touch on a more personal note, which brings note, the reason for my writing. I was, at first, surprised, then amazed, then disgusted when I heard and read about the amount of time, money and efforts made by both the British Government and Algerian authorities with regard to saving your son, Mark, from a place and a situation into which he should not have been ~~in~~ the first place!, whilst I have been left in this situation!

Madam, may I remind you that I, too, am some mother's son, her name is M^{rs} Elizabeth Clark, old age pensioner, fully paid up taxpayer and upright citizen of the United Kingdom, who has, with the aid of family and relatives brought to the notice of countless government officials my predicament, all to no avail. Your intervention, personally, on my behalf to the Saudi Arabians, with even half of the expended effort for your own son, would be truly appreciated by me.

Yours Faithfully
E. Clark



10 DOWNING STREET

For. Pol. file No
cc fro

From the Private Secretary

19 November 1982

Thank you for your letter of 15 October to the Prime Minister. I have been asked to reply.

I am sorry that you continue to think that the Embassy are not interested in your situation and are misleading you. This is not true.

Mr. Northern visited the Prison again on 9 October as promised to see about the arrangements for Mr. Sullivan's release and deportation. However, after spending several hours at the Prison he was informed that the documentation would not be completed that day. The administrative procedures had been completed, but the Prison Office refused to authorise Mr. Sullivan's departure until after his file was completed. By that time it was too late for Mr. Northern to see you and Mr. Sullivan that day. He did not pass a message as there was no progress to report and he was going to call back at a later date to find out whether the formalities had been completed. It is unfortunate that Mr. Northern told Mrs. Sullivan that her husband would be home that week, but as you will probably realise this was based on information received from the Saudi authorities.

Mr. Northern returned to the Prison on 16 October, to enquire about Mr. Sullivan's release. He was told by the deportation office that the paperwork would take a day or so and was asked to return on 18 October to arrange the exit visa and flight booking, which he did. On both occasions he was not able to arrange to see you but he did see Mr. Sullivan on 23 October to deliver his ticket and passport.

I understand that Mr. Northern has now informed you that your continued detention is due to a decision by the Customs Committee and not the Ministry of the Interior. I am sorry that you were given conflicting information when you made your own enquiries, but as you know it is sometimes difficult to verify statements from various Saudi offices. I understand that you are now considering whether or not to appeal against the findings of the Customs Committee and have 15 days in which to do so. Obviously, the Committee's decision must further delay your release but I do hope that it will not be for long.

/I assure you

Bol

I assure you that the Embassy will continue to keep a close watch on your case. I know that Mr. Northern visits you as often as he can and that the Consular Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office maintains regular contact with your mother.

I very much hope that there will be good news to pass on to her soon.

AJC

Charles Clark, Esq.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 November 1982

Dear Tim, he may sign it

Charles Clark and John Sullivan

Thank you for your ^{att} letter of 5 November enclosing a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the above named prisoners in Saudi Arabia.

Messrs Clark and Sullivan also wrote to the Prime Minister on 9 September about their continued detention. Since then Mr Sullivan has been released and deported. Mr Clark's release has been delayed because a Saudi Customs Committee ruled that all those involved in the whisky smuggling operation should jointly pay a fine of nearly 1.5 million Saudi Riyals, (£250,000). Mr Clark is considering whether to appeal against this decision.

I enclose a draft reply to Mr Clark, together with essential facts on the case.

Yours etc

J. Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

T Flesher Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

PS/No 10

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

C Clark Esq
 Malaz Central Prison
 Section 2
 Riyadh
 Saudi Arabia

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

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Thank you for your letter of 15 October to the Prime Minister. I have been asked to reply.

CAVEAT.....

I am sorry that you continue to ~~think~~ that the Embassy are not interested in your situation and are misleading you. This is not true.

Mr Northern visited the Prison again on 9 October as promised to see about the arrangements for Mr Sullivan's release and deportation. However, after spending several hours at the Prison he was informed that the documentation would not be completed that day. The administrative procedures had been completed, but the Prison Office refused to authorise Mr Sullivan's departure until his file was completed. By that time it was too late for Mr Northern to see you and Mr Sullivan that day. He did not pass a message as there was no progress to report and he was going to call back at a later date to find out whether the formalities had been completed. It is unfortunate that Mr Northern told Mrs Sullivan that her husband would be home that week, but as you will probably realise this was

/based

Enclosures—flag(s).....

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I understand that Mr Northern has now informed you that your continued detention is due to a decision by the Customs Committee and not the Ministry of the Interior.

I am sorry that you were given conflicting information when you made your own enquiries, but as you know it is ^{sometimes} difficult to verify statements from various Saudi offices. I understand you are now considering whether or not to appeal against the findings of the Customs Committee and have 15 days in which to do so. Obviously, the Committee's decision must further delay your release but I do hope that it will not be for long.

I assure you that the Embassy will continue to keep a close watch on your case. I know that Mr Northern visits you as often as he can and that the Consular Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office maintains regular contact with your mother.

I very much hope that there will be good news to pass on to her soon.

ESSENTIAL FACTS

CHARLES CLARK

1. Arrested 26 November 1980 in Dammam in connection with large scale whisky smuggling operation. Claimed innocence of any complicity.
2. Transferred to Riyadh in September 1981 for questioning by Customs Department. Returned to Dammam February 1982.
3. Sentenced on 12 May 1982 to two years imprisonment. Remission of one quarter of sentences. Should have been released after Ramadan (25 July).
4. Taken to Riyadh for further questioning by Customs.
5. Customs fine imposed jointly on those involved (about 1.5 million Riyals).

Foreign Pol, Apr '81, AM's Visit to Saudi

1982



Messrs. John SULLIVAN
and Clark

19/11

5 November 1982

I enclose a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Messrs. John Sullivan and Charles Clark.

I would be grateful if you could let me have a suitable draft reply which I might send to them by Friday 19 November.

(TIMOTHY FLESHER)

Christopher Greenwood, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

df

C/for PPS
(received in C/for H/11/82)
N/TCS

? PO NO
GR
NO
PPS
NOT
B

CB (P/10) PPS

MALAZ CENTRAL PRISON
SECTION 2
RIYADH
SAUDI ARABIA
15TH OCT 1982

REF:- MR JOHN SULLIVAN & MR CHARLES CLARK

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 8TH Oct 82. We are very pleased to hear that you are aware of the situation we are still in.

However, events have taken yet another turn since we last wrote and we are afraid that it puts the credibility of the British Embassy here in question again!

Mr Northern came to visit us on the 4TH Oct 82 and informed Mr Sullivan that he would be leaving the prison on the 11TH or 12TH Oct 82. Mr Northern told Mr Sullivan that he would return on the 9TH Oct 82 to collect his ticket to book his flight out. Mr Northern did not return on the 9TH and made no attempt to send Mr Sullivan any message. Since last seeing Mr Northern on the 4TH Oct eleven days have passed and absolutely nothing has happened to get Mr Sullivan released. Mr Northern also passed a message to Mrs Sullivan that her husband would be home last week?

As for Mr Clark, he is still being detained with no release date to hand. With the failure of Mr Northern to appear on his own quoted date, Mr Clark made his own approaches to the prison authorities here, in Malaz prison. The reason given to Mr Northern for Mr Clark's continued detention

was due to a customs problem, when he himself made his first approach to the police the reason given was of a Ministry of the Interior query. When this was not accepted he made a further approach and made the discovery that his file appeared to be missing, lost or mislaid by the general office!

With all the above incidents, frustrating attempts and no resolution to obtain a satisfactory answer to his case, please be informed, as is the prison authority, that Mr Clark has been on hunger strike as of 11th Oct 82 and will continue to do this until some definite move is made to secure his release.

We are both very upset and angry at the Embassy's deliberate attempt to mislead and lie to us. Just today 15th Oct we received a message from a friend who had contacted Mr Northern last week. Mr Northern said that he was too busy to come to visit us and if he came to the prison every day? he would not get any of his regular work done!?

We appreciate that the consuls' statutory duties are only to visit us once per month to insure our well being. But as we explained in our last letter both of us have finished our sentences.

Surely the time has come to stop playing games with our lives, we are both sick to death of being misled & "conned" by one of our own countrymen.

Mr Sullivan would like to inform you that if over the next few days he can see no sign of his release procedure he will be joining Mr Clark in his hunger strike as a final protest.

We thank you for your attention in this matter, should our release occur before you receive this letter we appreciate all of your efforts on our behalf.

Yours Faithfully

MR JOHN SULLIVAN
J E Sullivan

MR CHARLES CLARK
Charles Clark

P.S. 16TH Oct 82.

Mr Northern came to the prison today, he saw two other British nationals who are being held here but he did not request to see myself or Mr Clark. Perhaps you can now understand why we are so very upset with the British Consulate's attitude!



CC FCO

HU
For. Pol.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 October 1982

Thank you for your letter of 9 September to the Prime Minister about your continued detention in Saudi Arabia. I have been asked to reply.

The Prime Minister well understands your sense of frustration that your release has been delayed in this way particularly since Mr. Philip Clark has now been released. I am sorry, however, that you feel that the Embassy are ignoring your plight. I assure you that is not at all the case. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Embassy have been active in pressing for your release.

As Mr. Northern explained when he visited you, the staff of the Embassy try to visit as often as they can. In addition the Embassy is in regular contact with the Saudi authorities in order to find out where matters stand. You probably realise this can be a long, frustrating and sometimes unproductive exercise; the intervention of Ramadan, the Eid and Hajj holidays has not helped.

The latest information we have received from the Embassy is that amongst you, Mr. Sullivan is to be released next week. This is good news and I sincerely hope that there is no further delay.

As for Mr. Clark's case, it seems that Customs procedures have not yet been completed, although we have been given to understand that these would be resolved soon after the Hajj holiday. We shall continue to keep up the pressure for your release. Mr. Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office raised your case with the Saudi Ambassador on 24 September. The Ambassador undertook to report this approach to Riyadh. We are assured that the Ministry of the Interior and the Customs Department fully understand the need for urgency. I am very much aware that it is now nearly five months since Mr. Rickett wrote to you about your continued detention and it is depressing to learn that your release is still held up.

/ I know

I know how worried and anxious Mrs. Clark must be at the lack of progress and I do hope that our latest efforts will prove effective and that you will very soon be released and reunited with your family.

TF

C. Clark, Esq.,
J.E. Sullivan., Esq.

MWK



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 October 1982

Dear Tim,

[Handwritten initials and scribbles]

Charles Clark, Philip Clark,
John Sullivan

Thank you for your letter of 23 September enclosing a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the above named prisoners in Saudi Arabia.

Mr Charles Clark wrote to the Prime Minister on 21 April this year about his continued detention without charge. He was subsequently sentenced and was on the point of being released in July when he was further detained by the Saudi Customs authorities. Mr Hurd raised the case with the Saudi Ambassador on 24 September who undertook to report our approach to Riyadh, and the Secretary of State is being briefed to raise this if he visits Saudi Arabia next week.

Mr Philip Clark was released on 21 September and Mr Sullivan, who should have been released on 4 September, is to be released next week following agreement by the Customs authorities.

I enclose a draft reply to Messrs Charles Clark and John Sullivan together with a note on the essential facts of the cases. The draft does not mention the possibility of the Secretary of State raising this, in case the visit does not materialise.

Lawrence
J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

T Flesher Esq
10 Downing Street

DSP (Revised)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

PS/No. 10

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

J E Sullivan Esq
C Clark Esq
Malaaz Prison
Section 2
Riyadh
Saudi Arabia

Your Reference

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

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Enclosures—flag(s).....

The latest information we have received from the Embassy is amongst that you, Mr Sullivan is to be released next week. This

/is

is good news and I sincerely hope that there is no further delay.

As for your case, Mr Clark, it seems that Customs procedures have not yet been completed. We are seriously concerned and are urgently considering what steps we can take to bring the long delay to an end. Mr Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office raised your case with the Saudi Ambassador on 24 September. The Ambassador undertook to report this approach to Riyadh and I hope this will be effective. I am very much aware that it is now nearly five months since Mr Rickett wrote to you about your continued detention and it is depressing to learn that your release is still held up. I know how worried and anxious Mrs Clark must be at the lack of progress. We shall certainly continue to do everything we can to bring about your release.

DSP 11 (Revised)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

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- Unclassified

Copies to:

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SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Enclosures—flag(s).....

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I know how worried and anxious Mrs Clark must be at the lack of progress and I do hope that our latest efforts will prove effective and that you will very soon be released and reunited with your family.

ESSENTIAL FACTS

CHARLES CLARK

1. Arrested 26 November 1980 in Dammam in connection with large scale whisku smuggling operation. Claimed innocence of any complicity.
2. Transferred to Riyadh in September 1981 for questioning by Customs Department. Returned to Dammam February 1982.
3. Sentenced on 12 May 1982 to two years imprisonment. Remission of one quarter of sentence. Should have been released after Ramadan (25 July).
4. Taken to Riyadh for further questioning by Customs.

JOHN EDWARD SULLIVAN

1. Arrested in Riyadh on 11 March together with a German, three Austrians and a Saudi National.
2. Caught distributing alcohol.
3. Sentenced 3 July to 12 months imprisonment and 150 strokes of the cane. Eligible for release under King's amnesty. Release date 4 September 1982. Delayed due to Customs procedures, To be released approx mid October 1982.

18 OCT 1982

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



JWP

BF 7-10-82

23 September 1982

I enclose a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Messrs John Sullivan, Charles Clark and Philip Clark.

I would be grateful if you could let me have a suitable draft Private Secretary reply by Thursday, 7 October.

(TIMOTHY FLESHER)

Christopher Greenwood, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

R

23 September 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 9 September.

This is receiving attention and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

(TIMOTHY FLESHER)

J.E. Sullivan, Esq.

R

CF 115

CG (800) PS

MALAZ PRISON.

SECTION 2

RIYADH

SAUDI ARABIA

9.9.82

(23/9)

REF:- MR JOHN SULLIVAN, MR CHARLES CLARK, MR PHILIP CLARK.

Madam, (A)

It is with innate feelings that all of the above named persons would like to draw your attention to the following details.

REF:- MR JOHN SULLIVAN: Given release date the 4TH September 1982 - still imprisoned. Repeated requests for consular assistance, ignored to-date.

REF:- MR CHARLES CLARK: Calculated release date 8TH May 1982 - transferred from Dammam to Riyadh prison again, still no sign of release procedure. Once more consular assistance requested and ignored to-date.

REF:- MR PHILIP CLARK: Sentenced to 70 lashes and deportation, no prison term. Now has been held since 22ND July 1982. No procedure for final release, also consular assistance requested on numerous occasions and ignored to-date.

As you may gather from the above, all of us are very bitter and disappointed indeed that the British Embassy representatives, who are aware that we are overdue for release, seem from our point of view, to be very indifferent about rendering their assistance.

All three agree that we are not complaining about having had to serve a sentence under Saudi Arabian law. But now that we have completed these sentences we feel that the British Embassy failed us by withholding their assistance to us when we are so badly in need of outside help.

Ironically Mr Sullivan & Mr Charles Clark were granted the "King's amnesty" some six to eight weeks ago, hence the Embassy was aware of their imminent release. Mr Sullivan's family was informed by the Foreign Office of his official release date for the 4th September 82, as you can imagine his family must be very worried of him where about. To say nothing of the feelings of Mr Charles Clark's mother who was also informed of his imminent release in May 82.

We would be very grateful for your assistance in this matter and for any help that the British government may render us to speed up our release from the Saudi Arabian authorities.

We are, yours faithfully,

J E Sullivan

P F Clark.

Charles Clark

C.C. Sir James Craig. Seddah.

Foreign Pol, PM visit to Saudi, Pt 2



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 May 1982

RSOM

Dear John,

My dear Mr Clark

Charles Clark

Thank you for your letter of 6 May enclosing a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister received from Charles Clark, who has been detained for almost 18 months without being charged in Saudi Arabia. He wrote a similar letter on the same day to Mr Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr Clark has now been sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment and with remission may be released soon.

I enclose a draft reply to Mr Clark, together with a background note. The reply should be sent through the diplomatic bag to Jedda. Our Embassy will arrange for it to be delivered to Mr Clark.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: ~~minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note~~
~~XXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

A J COLES

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Charles Clark Esq
Dammam Central Prison
DAMMAM
Saudi Arabia

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 21 April and to reply on her behalf.

Mrs Thatcher was naturally most concerned to hear of your continued imprisonment without charges having been made. Mrs Thatcher raised your case and that of other British subjects held at that time without charge, when she visited Saudi Arabia in April of last year. Our Ambassador also recently asked Prince Naif to look urgently at your case.

I understand that since you wrote to the Prime Minister you have been sentenced to two years imprisonment but that this has been backdated to the date of your original imprisonment. I very much hope that you will be able to qualify for maximum remission and be released soon.

/The Consular Department

Enclosures—flag(s).....

The Consular Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have been in regular touch with your mother throughout. She is both relieved and pleased at the prospect of seeing you soon.

ESSENTIAL FACTS

CHARLES CLARK

1. Arrested 26 November 1980 in Dammam in connection with large-scale whisky smuggling operation.
2. Claims innocence of any complicity.
3. Prime Minister raised case in general terms during visit to Saudi Arabia in April 1981.
4. Two others connected with affair were deported on 19 November 1981. Three others sentenced on 12 December 1981. Two of those have now been released. The third - David Hanley - is now serving a four year prison sentence.
5. Ambassador in Jeddah raised case with Minister of the Interior on 21 April.
6. Sentenced on 12 May to 2 years imprisonment. Possible remission of one quarter of sentence, may be released soon or, more probably, not until after Ramadan (22 June - 25 July).



Charles CLARK

11/5

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 May 1982

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. Charles Clark who states he is being held in prison by the Saudi Arabian authorities.

I should be grateful if you could let me have a brief account of the case and a draft reply for my signature on behalf of the Prime Minister (together with advice on how the reply should best be sent).

As the letter has clearly been delayed in transit (it was received here on 6 May), I should be grateful if the draft reply could reach me early next week.

E. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

