

JCCPC



Prime Minister.

Would you like a meeting, after Easter, with :-

MO 26/9/4

I would rather get their reaction in writing first. I just don't think it's possible to give to supply them

- Defence Secretary
- Trade Secretary
- Foreign Secretary
- Chancellor ?

PRIME MINISTER Wapors.

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A. J. C. 9/4

You will wish to be aware that I have received a formal request from the Syrian Minister of Defence inviting us to supply Challenger tanks, Jaguar ground attack aircraft, Hawk trainer aircraft, Rapier air defence missiles and an early warning radar system. I attach a copy of his letter to me, together with a translation.

2. The value of the total order is very broadly £4 billion. This would be an immense prize for British industry: even an order for just one of the equipments the Syrians have mentioned would be very valuable. But the political difficulties speak for themselves - the effect on the Middle East military balance, the Israeli reaction, the American view and so on. My officials are now undertaking an urgent assessment of the implications of the Syrian approach, and they will be in touch with other departments as necessary. But because of the very unusual nature of this request, I think that it would be helpful if you were to call a meeting with the Ministers most directly concerned to discuss it in advance of the completion of the assessment by officials. I know that Norman Tebbit agrees with me that such a meeting would be helpful.

3. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Ministry of Defence
5th April 1984



الرقم / ٢١٢٢ /
التاريخ ٢١ / ٢ / ١٤٠٦ هـ
الموافق ١٦ / ٢ / ١٩٨٤

الجنرال مصطفى طلاس

السيد مايكل هزل تامين المحترم

وزير الدفاع البريطاني

تحية وبعد :

يرجى الموافقة على تزويد القوات المسلحة السورية بالعتدة

البريطانية التالية :

- ١ - منظومة دفاع جوى من طراز (Raa Pers Blend) عدد عشرة
- ٢ - طائرات مقاتلة قاذفة من طراز جاكوار (١٢٠) طائرة
• اضافة (٦ للتدريب)
- ٣ - دبابات شيفتين او تشالنجر من الجيل الجديد (٣٥٠) دبابة
- ٤ - طائرات هوكس للتدريب (٦٠) طائرة •
- ٥ - نظام قيادة وانذار وتوجيه رادارى من شركة (بلسي) وفي حال
موافقتكم على هذه البنود او بعضها نرغب اعطاء توجيهاتكم
الى المختصين في وزارتكم للتوجه الى دمشق للتباحث
مع مكتب تأمين الجيش لدينا حول الاسعار ومواعيد التسليم •
مع اطيب التمنيات لكم بالصحة لتمكنوا من تحمل اعباء
مسؤولياتكم •

المخلص

العماد مصطفى طلاس

نائب القائد العام - نائب رئيس مجلس الوزراء

وزير الدفاع



TRANSLATION OF LETTER RECEIVED FROM THE SYRIAN MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Ref: 3124 dated 16th March 1984

The Hon. Michael Heseltine,
Ministry of Defence

Greetings,

We would appreciate it if you could supply the Syrian Armed Forces with the following British products:-

1. Rapier Air Defence Missile System - "Blindfire"
Quantity: 10 Batteries
2. Jaguar Attack Bombers
Quantity: 120 aircraft plus 6 training aircraft
3. Chieftan or Challenger tanks (latest model)
Quantity: 350 vehicles
4. Hawk Trainer Aircraft
Quantity: 60 aircraft
5. Early Warning Radar System - to be supplied from Plessey

In the event of your agreement to the following items (or some of them), we would like you to send a team from your Ministry to Damascus to discuss with the "Requirements Office", prices and the delivery dates of the products.

Best greetings and regards

Maj.General Moustafa TALAS

Deputy Commander of the Armed Forces

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence