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THE PRIME MINISTER

10 DOWNING STREET  
**PRIME MINISTER'S**  
**PERSONAL MESSAGE**  
SERIAL No. ....T 71/84

2 May 1984

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PAKISTANI - Relations  
Sept. 79.  
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Dear Mr. President.

I was very pleased to receive your letter of 25 March following up our interesting discussion in Moscow last February. Janet Young has also told me of her most valuable and informative talks with you in March.

We have been giving urgent consideration to your detailed suggestions on narcotics control and military training assistance. I am much impressed by your personal determination to curb the appalling drug trade. As Janet Young told you we remain committed to supplying practical and effective help in this field. We have already responded promptly and positively to earlier requests for assistance. Last year, for instance, we contributed £180,000 to the anti-narcotics programme of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) in Pakistan and - in response to an appeal from your government - we announced at the Aid Consortium Meeting in Paris on 12 April an additional pledge of £1 million. Janet Young also told you of our decision to appoint a full-time expert from HM Customs at our Consulate General in Karachi to intensify the exchange of intelligence on drug trafficking. I understand he will be in post by June this year and hope that this appointment will develop a wide-ranging and productive exchange.

With regard to your list of requests for drugs equipment and training, our Embassy in Islamabad will soon be in a position to submit detailed and considered proposals. As a first step we would be happy to send a senior drugs specialist to Pakistan in the next few months to

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investigate the possibility of British assistance with training in this area. We doubt whether we will be able to provide British dogs but there are a number of alternative courses which might be pursued. We are also pursuing vigorously your request for training facilities for Pakistan Customs officials in the UK. This would appear to be an effective way of building on the work of the HM Customs expert in Karachi. Finally, we hope to respond positively on some of the items of equipment, particularly X-ray systems, mentioned in your letter.

Your list of additional military training requirements is also being carefully studied. I understand that a number of places on such training courses have already been agreed between our military staffs. There should not be any difficulty in satisfying many of your requirements although the details and timings will need to be explored through the usual channels. I very much hope that a high proportion of the training costs will be covered by the various UK training assistance schemes.

The appointment of Air Marshal Daudpota to command the Zimbabwe Air Force was a generous gesture of support for Mr. Mugabe's government. It was perhaps understandable that a number of white Zimbabwe Air Force men chose to retire or resign following independence and we were pleased that Mr. Mugabe turned to you for help. I share your assessment of the worrying alternatives which the Zimbabwe Government would have been forced to consider had you been unable to respond so positively to their request for high level assistance. The main thrust of our assistance has been in the Zimbabwe army with the difficult task of integrating the three armed forces which were in existence at independence. This process has now been completed and we are now assisting with training. I do so much hope that our combined efforts will help ensure the stability and security of independence that we both wish for Zimbabwe.

You may recall that I wrote to you in August 1982 in support of Vosper Thornycroft's offer to sell Type 21 frigates for the Pakistan Navy. I was particularly encouraged to learn from Janet Young's conversation with you on 11 March that the British offer

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would have priority once the financing arrangements were complete. I am delighted that Vospers have now put forward new proposals with a substantially increased element of Government-backed credit. We look forward to an early decision on a contract which will further strengthen the long-standing and close ties between our two navies.

Finally, I would like to reiterate our deep concern about Afghanistan. The immense toll of human suffering caused by the Soviet military presence remains one of the gravest issues of our time. We are determined to maintain support for Pakistan's firm stand against Soviet aggression and will continue to give practical and humanitarian assistance to the Afghan refugees. Your Government's generous support for these indomitable people has inspired widespread and heartfelt admiration. We continue to take every opportunity to keep Afghanistan in the forefront of public attention, and made our views clear to the Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Kornienko, when he visited London in March. The House of Lords debated Afghanistan on 25 April; and this is a further sign of our continuing concern on this issue.

I hope we can keep in touch on these important and urgent issues.

Every good wish

Yours sincerely

Maya and Shalita

His Excellency General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq