

OPS cc MASTER  
SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST  
Arms Sales Pt 4



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 November 1984

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No: T 105/84

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Your Highness,

I recall with pleasure our meeting in Kuwait in 1981 and I very much look forward to the opportunity of meeting you again. The problems which the Gulf region is currently facing are of importance to us all and my Government greatly values the close links between our countries.

I therefore thought I should write to you personally on a matter of importance to us both which will I hope lead directly to an increase in the already close defence co-operation between our two countries.

When my Minister for Defence Procurement, Adam Butler, was in Kuwait in October this year he discussed with your Defence Minister, Shaikh Salim al Sabah, the Kuwait Armed Forces' need for a new generation of light armoured vehicles, and in particular the merits of the British MCV 80 which is manufactured by GKN Sankey Ltd.

As you may know MCV 80 will shortly be entering into service with the British Army and along with the Challenger main battle tank will form the mainstay of our armoured units assigned to NATO. I was particularly pleased to hear that MCV 80 had performed so successfully during its very demanding trials in the Kuwait desert at the height of your summer. I am sure you will agree this was a very tough test for any armoured vehicle and unlike its Soviet and American competitors MCV 80 has proved itself totally capable of

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operating effectively in the very high temperatures and rough terrain to be found in the Arabian peninsula.

I very much hope therefore that when the decision is taken on equipping the Kuwaiti infantry battalions, you will conclude that MCV 80 would be the best choice for your armed forces.

Yours sincerely

Nargaret Daltry

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His Highness Shaikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, KCMG