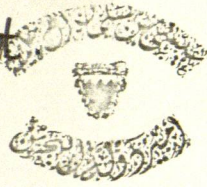


OPS  
cc Master

Subject: Middle East  
Arms Sales Pt 4.

بِسْمِ الرَّسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T.215/84

BAHRAIN

31 DECEMBER 1984

DEAR MRS. THATCHER,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 6 DECEMBER 1984. I WAS VERY PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO WELCOME YOUR MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT, ADAM BUTLER, AND FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS. THE LONG STANDING FRIENDSHIP AND HISTORICAL TIES BETWEEN BAHRAIN AND THE UNITED KINGDOM IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND VALUE TO US.

ON THE ISSUE OF AIRCRAFT PURCHASE WE DO BELIEVE THAT THE HAWK IS A FIRST CLASS AIRCRAFT. AS YOU WILL KNOW, OUR AIRFORCE IS ONLY RECENTLY ESTABLISHED AND WE ARE CO-ORDINATING WITH THE GCC STATES IN DEFENCE ARRANGEMENTS. IN THIS RESPECT WE DO BELIEVE THE DOOR IS STILL OPEN FOR HAWK IN THE FUTURE.

BECAUSE OF OUR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP, WE HAVE ALWAYS LOOKED TO THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR OUR NEEDS IN TERMS OF EQUIPMENT AND EXPERTISE. I DO BELIEVE FIRMLY THAT WE SHALL CONTINUE TO DO SO. FURTHERMORE I ASSURE YOU THAT THE EXISTING TIES BETWEEN THE BAHRAIN DEFENCE FORCE AND YOUR GOVERNMENT'S OWN ARMED FORCES WILL REMAIN.

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



I VERY MUCH ENJOYED MY STATE VISIT TO LONDON EARLIER THIS YEAR AND,  
IN PARTICULAR, MEETING WITH YOU.

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SEND YOU MY VERY BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW  
YEAR AND 1985.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Isa Bin Salman*

ISA BIN SALMAN AL-KHALIFA  
AMIR OF THE STATE OF BAHRAIN

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MARGARET THATCHER MP  
PRIME MINISTER.