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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 June, 1985

*I hope this can be done very quickly - may help Westlands not*

Dear Charles,

*Prime Minister*

*CDP  
17/6*

I attach a letter dated 8 June from President Kaunda of Zambia to the Prime Minister, asking us to supply 12 Westland helicopters for use on anti-poaching missions.

We will supply a draft reply to President Kaunda shortly after consultation with other Departments concerned.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (MOD) and Mike McCulloch (ODA).

*Yours ever,*

*Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street



PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No: T 1088/85

U MASTER  
OPS

*State House  
Lusaka, Republic of Zambia*

8th June, 1985.

*My Dear Prime Minister,*

I am given to understand that there are between 20 and 25 Westland helicopters available which are for immediate sale.

We have great need for this type of helicopter for civilian use. We have immense problems with commercial poachers who are laying waste our much valued wild life. The country is vast and these valuable assets are spread in many parts of it. This is a battle we have been fighting for some time now and unless we have this assistance we are likely to continue losing it.

For example, the Luangwa Valley into which my Government organised a visit by the Royal Family in 1979, had on record about 100,000 elephants. Sadly this number has been reduced to just about 50,000. At this rate this devastation will continue. I have given only one example but the rhino, the eland, the leopard, cheetah and the black lechwe are all going the same way.

It is with this background, Prime Minister, that I come to you for this assistance. It is a desperate situation but one which can be turned into victory if your Government helped us in this case as you have done in many others before.

/.....

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
LONDON.



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The number of helicopters that we would need is 12. I would like to assure you at this juncture that the use of the helicopters would be solely civilian. My Government is going through some very difficult times economically and I would therefore like to apply for a one hundred per cent grant under the Overseas Development Aid Plan (ODA).

I sincerely hope and pray that my request will be favourably considered by you and your Government, Prime Minister.

God's blessings.

*Yours sincerely,*

*16*

Kenneth D. Kaunda  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA