



10 DOWNING STREET

File AH
Rahwana

From the Principal Private Secretary

18 January 1982

Dear Brian,

ASSISTANCE FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN PAKISTAN

I attach a copy of a note which was prepared by our High Commission in Pakistan as part of the Prime Minister's briefing for her meeting with General Zia on 8 October 1981.

In the event the President referred to the question of assistance for handicapped children only briefly. He said that Pakistan was grateful for the help given to establish an Institute for Handicapped Children, and he would welcome more. He said that it was proposed that British experts should come to Pakistan for six months or so at Pakistan's expense to provide technical help to set up an institute.

The Prime Minister recently inquired whether any progress had been made on this matter. I should be grateful if you could let me have a short report.

Yours ever,

John White.

Brian Fall Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

AH

MFJ

Parkinson

27 January 1982

Assistance for Handicapped Children
in Pakistan

Thank you for your letter of 26 January.
The Prime Minister has seen it and taken
note of its content.

AJC

R M J Lyne Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Prime Minister

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 January 1982

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Dear John,

Assistance for Handicapped Children in Pakistan

In his letter of 18 January, Clive Whitmore said that the Prime Minister had enquired about progress on this matter, which was raised briefly during her meeting with General Zia on 8 October.

I am afraid that there is little to add to the note by Bill Fullerton, of our Embassy in Islamabad, which you enclosed with your letter. Following the Prime Minister's visit, we promptly reaffirmed our willingness to provide assistance by way of a follow-up to the short advisory visit which we had mounted in March 1980. This was done both orally during a visit in October by the ODA Desk Officer for Pakistan, and subsequently in writing by our Embassy. So far the offer has not been taken up, although we understand that we can expect to receive a formal request in due course.

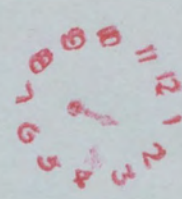
ODA's Education Adviser is due to visit Pakistan next month and, if no response has been received by then, he will be asked to take the matter up again with the Pakistani authorities.

Yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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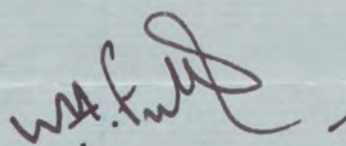
PS to Prime Minister

ASSISTANCE FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN PAKISTAN

1. General Zia, who has a handicapped child, raised this during Mr Callaghan's visit to Pakistan in January 1978. The Pakistan Ambassador in London wrote to Mr A G Hurrell of ODA in November 1979 seeking assistance in the provision of specialists. The ODA arranged for Mr David Thomas, Head of Department and Coordinator of Medical Education for Handicapped Children at Leicester Polytechnic, to visit Pakistan for three weeks in March 1980 and submit a report assessing existing facilities and requirements and making recommendations. Mr Thomas met General Zia, who later expressed his appreciation of the report.

2. The Pakistan Government wrote to the British Ambassador in Islamabad on 9 September 1980 with an uncoordinated list of specialists (also for blind, deaf, dumb and orthopaedically disabled) they hoped we could provide. ODA expressed willingness to consider this but asked first for a reaction to Mr Thomas' proposals. ODA also offered a technical consultant to tackle the first part of the work suggested by Mr Thomas (development of suitable infra-structure and detailed assessment of expatriate needs, both federal and provincial). The Pakistanis accepted that this would be sensible but, in spite of reminders from the Embassy, have not pursued the matter.

3. The Prime Minister might say to General Zia that the British Government are prepared to do what they can to help but still await from the Pakistan Government a reaction to the suggestions in Mr Thomas' report and to the ODA's suggestion that an expert might come out to assist with the implementation of the first part of that report.



W H Fullerton

8 October 1981

cc:- HE Mr O G Forster
Mr J T Masefield

CF.

This note was given to the Prime Minister by our High Commissioner in Islamabad as part of the briefing for his meeting with President Zia when our case in Pakistan is better. In the event the matter did not come up.

The Prime Minister has found the note among his private papers and has asked whether we know of any developments subsequent to his visit. Is there anything on the file? 14.10.82.