

AMERY, A.P.

PERSONAL

28th May, 1981

Thank you so much for your letter of 14th
May.

I thought that the visit to Saudi Arabia and
to the Gulf last month did go rather well, and of course
I am glad to have your confirmation about this.

It was good of you to have taken the trouble
to write.

The Right Honourable Julian Amery, M.P.
112 Eaton Square,
London SW1



FROM: THE RT. HON. JULIAN AMERY, M.P.

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Personal

14th May, 1981.

Dear Margaret,

I thought you might like to know that I have been getting extremely favourable reports from friends in Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi and Oman about your recent visit.

They have not said anything specific but have been loud in your praises personally and all confirm that the journey was a great success for Britain.

I gather the Sultan of Oman was particularly pleased with his private talk with you and delighted that "she did not try to lecture me"!

As my friends would be the first to criticise I thought you might like to know of their reactions.

I do not think I have ever thanked you for asking me to your dinner for the Rumanian Prime Minister. It was very good of you to include me among your guests and I was very glad of the chance to meet Mr. Verdet, who is one of the few leading men in Rumania I had not previously come across.

Yours ever,
Julian.
Julian Amery

The Rt.Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.

AMERY, M.P.



10 DOWNING STREET

9th April, 1981

Thank you so much for your letter of 7th April, written following your talk with Dr. Omar Zawawi.

Your letter will be of great help to me when I visit Oman later in the month.

Thank you, too, for having sent a copy of your letter of the previous date to Peter, reporting on your visit to Jordan.

The Rt. Hon. Julian Amery, M.P.

7th April, 1981.

CONFIDENTIAL

D. Amery

Since I saw you last Wednesday, I have had a visit from Dr. Omar Zawawi who is the Sultan of Oman's "homme d'affaires" and brother of his Foreign Minister.

Dr. Omar made the following points to me which may have a bearing on your visit to Oman.

1. The Omanis are proposing to buy a good deal of British equipment for their defence forces. The sums involved look like going rather beyond what they can afford if they are to keep up their internal development programme.

Dr. Omar expressed the hope - clearly on the Sultan's behalf - that, in the course of your visits to Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi, you might feel able to urge them to contribute to the Omani defence budget - the Saudis already do to a small extent - on the grounds that the Omanis are the guardians of the Straits of Hormuz on which all the Gulf states depend for the export of their oil.

2. Dr. Omar suggested that it would be very well received if in your talks with the Sultan you could show an interest in his internal development programme and ~~in fact~~ that you had had very good reports about this. (I suspect this may be linked with 1. above.)

He thought it would be well received if you could add that while, of course, you welcomed the new defence contracts now agreed in principle with Oman, our friendship rested on much surer and longer standing foundations. He says he is anxious to preempt local criticism that Britain is only interested in Oman for the contracts we can get out of the Omanis.

3. The Omanis are again beginning to worry about the danger of renewed aggression from the South Yemen. They would be grateful if in your talks with the Saudis and the UAE you could enquire what action they would take to help the Omanis in the event of direct South Yemen aggression against them.

With regard to your visit to Abu Dhabi, Dr. Omar mentioned that Sheikh Zaid is very susceptible to flattery about his eldest son Sheikh Khalifa.

I pass on these points for what they may be worth.

Dr. Omar, in what we might call traditional Middle Eastern fashion, left me with photostats of copies of letters he has received from Gerald Ford and Henry Kissinger which I enclose. I do



not know how significant they really are but it is interesting that Dr.Omar's brother, Quais Zawawi, the Foreign Minister, whom you will almost certainly meet was received by President Reagan in the company of Bush, Haig, Casey and I think Weinberger.

Yours truly,
Julian

Julian Amery

The Rt.Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.