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cc: DT7
FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

12 November, 1985

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your letter of 28 October in which you suggest the possibility of my visiting the first Cryo Magnetic Resonance Imaging system in Japan when I am next there.

I am not actually going to Tokyo in February as you suggest though I shall be there in early May for the Economic Summit. Whether it would be possible to fit a visit to the MRI system into the crowded programme of an Economic Summit is rather doubtful. But I will certainly keep the possibility in mind and look at it when we come to settle my programme. As you know I am a great admirer of what is being achieved in Britain in the high technology medical diagnostic field.

Yours ever
Raymond

The Rt. Hon. James Prior, M.P.

RM

THE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, plc.

1 STANHOPE GATE · LONDON W1A 1EH

01-493 8484

FROM THE CHAIRMAN
THE RT. HON. JAMES PRIOR, MP

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON S.W.1.

28th October 1985

Dear Margaret

There is a strong rumour that you are planning to visit Japan next February. Picker International and Toray have a joint venture company engaged in selling MRI systems in Japan. I know you visited Donald Longmore and have taken a great interest in his work and are one of the few people who understand the technology and importance of what he's doing and its relevance to Britain's efforts in the high tech. medical diagnostic field.

It would be a great boost for Picker if it were possible for you to look at one of our MRI facilities. Chiba University in Tokyo has installed the first Cryo MRI system in Japan and this might be a suitable choice. We would, of course, arrange for either the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman of Picker to be in attendance if you were able to fit this into your programme. I know of the demands made upon you and we thought this might be a more interesting and worthwhile visit than some others.

*Y
James
Prior*

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THE COMPANY'S POLICY IS TO SUPPORT THE
INDIAN MARKET WITH THE BEST OF
THE COMPANY'S PRODUCTS



James Prior MP
12/11

JDS AD 2



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 October, 1985.

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the Rt. Hon. James Prior of GEC about the possibility of her visiting MRI systems in Japan.

The Prime Minister is not going to Japan in February, but will of course be there in May for the Economic Summit. It would be helpful to know whether you and the Department of Trade and Industry would advise a visit to such a facility, assuming there was time.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Mike Gilbertson (Department of Trade and Industry).

C.D. Powell

P.F. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 October 1985

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 28 October.

I will ensure that you receive a reply as soon as possible.

(C.D. Powell)

The Rt. Hon. James Prior, M.P.



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Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
1-19 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1H 0ET

TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-215 5422
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NO TRACE
GR'S?

8 November 1985

Charles Powell Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

COZ 11/ki

Dear Charles,

Your letter of 29 October 1985 to Peter Ricketts at the FCO asked for my Department's advice about Mr James Prior's letter to the Prime Minister suggesting that she visit the Picker International Magnetic Resonance (MR) Imager at Chiba University in Tokyo when she goes to Japan next year.

Our advice is that the Prime Minister should make the visit if time permits. MR Imaging is becoming increasingly popular worldwide as a medical diagnostic technique and the commercial potential for MR imagers is very large. The technique is relatively new and Picker - a GEC subsidiary - succeeded in making an early impact in the market partly because of the UK's academic strength in the MR field. However, the company is coming under strong pressure from foreign competitors who entered the field after Picker.

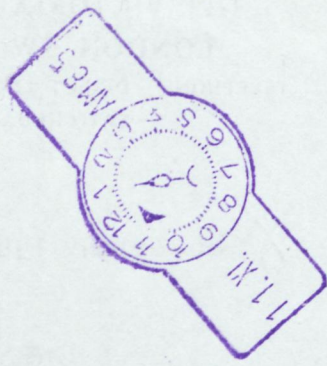
A visit by the Prime Minister to the Chiba installation would certainly increase Picker's prestige and boost its chances of success in Japan and other markets.

I am copying this letter to Peter Ricketts (FCO).

Yours ever,

Michael.

MICHAEL GILBERTSON
Private Secretary



COOPERATION

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CONFIDENTIAL

GR?



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 November 1985

Dear Charles,

JAPAN

Thank you for your letter of 29 October enclosing a letter dated 28 October from the Rt Hon James Prior to the Prime Minister about the possibility of her visiting MRI systems in Japan.

The Prime Minister has already seen a Magnetic Resonance Imaging system at the National Heart Hospital earlier this year, and a visit to one in Japan would certainly highlight an aspect of medical technology that Britain is able to sell to Japan. Other things being equal, therefore, a visit would be a good idea, but it seems unlikely that the Prime Minister would be able to fit such a visit into the crowded schedule of an Economic Summit and a visit either before or after would be very difficult to accommodate. The Prime Minister is stopping over in Korea before the Summit, while the Prince and Princess of Wales are due to visit Japan only two days after the Summit and, we believe, Mr Mulroney is to stay on as an official guest of the Japanese Government after the Summit.

The visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales has not been made public yet, and should not, we suggest, therefore be mentioned to Mr Prior. We shall look into the possibility of MRI systems figuring in their programme.

Yr ever,
Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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