



JH
cc DIT
PCO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 November 1979

Your Royal Highness

I am taking the opportunity of this visit by Mr. John Nott, the first member of the new Government to visit Saudi Arabia, to send you my very best wishes and to say how much I look forward to a further improvement in the very close relations between our two countries.

The events of the past year have underlined the crucial importance of Saudi Arabia's role among the states of the Muslim and Arab worlds and as a leading oil producer. We share many vital interests and I believe our two Governments should keep in close touch over the problems which we face.

Following Mr. Nott's visit, I hope that Mr. Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, and Lord Carrington, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, will be able to visit Saudi Arabia early in the coming year and our Ambassador, Mr. Craig, will be in touch with you about the details. I think it is essential that individual British and Saudi Ministers should consult each other about their particular problems and that we should be ready to make direct contact on broader questions, as I did when I wrote to Your Royal Highness recently on Rhodesia.

I understand that you may be coming to London next month and I hope that it will be possible for us to meet during your visit.

With warmest greetings
and best wishes,

Yours sincerely

His Royal Highness
Prince Fahd bin Abdul Aziz.

Margaret Thatcher

IS



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 November, 1979.

Saudi
Arabia

Mr. Nott's Visit to the Middle East

You wrote to Mike Pattison on 9 November about the possibility of Mr. Nott carrying to Saudi Arabia a personal message from the Prime Minister to either the King or the Crown Prince.

I enclose a letter from the Prime Minister to Prince Fahd.

I am sending a copy of this letter with its enclosure to Paul Lever (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

H.W. Bartlett, Esq.,
Department of Trade.

JS

①



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

Apex list?

Yes
Mr

16 November 1979

Print
10/11

Dear Mike,

MESSAGE TO PRINCE FAHD

In your letter to Hugh Bartlett of 9 November you asked for a draft message from the Prime Minister which Mr Nott could take to Saudi Arabia.

--- I enclose a draft which we have prepared with the agreement of the Department of Trade and which is addressed to the Saudi Crown Prince, Fahd. Although Prince Fahd is officially described as "First Deputy Prime Minister" (King Khalid is Prime Minister) he is number 2 in the Saudi hierarchy, exercises an influence probably close to that of the King and is a more effective and articulate figure. Armed with the Prime Minister's message, it should be possible for Mr Nott to have a useful discussion with him.

Agreed The message is couched in general terms, but it does specifically suggest that if Prince Fahd visits London on 3 December to open the Islamic Council for Europe's Conference on Jerusalem, a meeting with the Prime Minister could be arranged. I hope the Prime Minister can agree to this. Although the Conference may be contentious, Fahd can properly be received as Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia and thus as a figure of prime importance.

If the Prime Minister is content with the draft message, may I suggest that you send the top copy to Hugh Bartlett for inclusion with Mr Nott's briefs?

Yours etc
Paul
(P Lever)

Mike Pattison Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: ~~XXXXXX~~ minute/letter/teletype/letter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

HRH Prince Fahad bin Abdul Aziz
Crown Prince and First Deputy Minister of
Saudi Arabia

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Your Royal Highness,

CAVEAT.....

I am taking the opportunity of this visit by Mr John Nott, the first member of the new Government to visit Saudi Arabia, to send you my very best wishes and to say how much I look forward to a further improvement in the very close relations between our two countries.

The events of the past year have underlined the crucial importance of Saudi Arabia's role among the states of the Muslim and Arab worlds and as a leading oil producer. We share many vital interests and I believe our two governments should keep in close touch over the problems which we face.

Following Mr Nott's visit, I hope that Mr Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, and Lord Carrington, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, will be able to visit Saudi Arabia early in the coming year and our Ambassador, Mr Craig, will be in touch with you about the details. I think it is essential that individual British and Saudi Ministers should consult each other about their particular problems and that we should be ready to make direct contact on broader questions, as I did when I wrote to Your Royal Highness recently on Rhodesia.

I understand that you may be coming to London next month and I hope that it will be possible for us to meet during your visit.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

186 NOV 1991

59 11 21
58 11 22
57 11 23
56 11 24

9 November 1979

RF 16/11/79

Thank you for your letter of 9 November, about the suggestion that Mr. Nott should carry a message from the Prime Minister when he travels to Saudi Arabia.

I am sure that the Prime Minister will be ready to accept this suggestion if the Foreign Office are in favour. Perhaps you could let me have a draft message for the Prime Minister to consider in good time. It would be helpful if we could see this by next weekend.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Paul Lever (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

MAP

H.W. Bartlett, Esq.,
Department of Trade.



From the Secretary of State

M Pattison Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London, SW1

9. November 1979

Dear Mike,

MR NOTT'S VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Mini. Mo. file { Your letter of 14 September conveyed the Prime Minister's approval of my Secretary of State's proposal to visit Iraq and Saudi Arabia from 23 to 28 November.

The Charge d'Affaires at Jedda has recommended that, as Mr Nott will be the first member of this Administration to visit Saudi Arabia, it would be appropriate for him to carry a personal message from the Prime Minister to the King or Crown Prince. FCO officials agree.

If you can confirm that the Prime Minister is agreeable to sending such a message, the FCO will draft one.

I am copying to the Private Secretary (FCO).

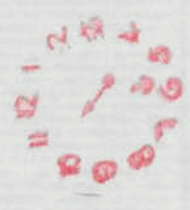
Your Sincerely,
Hugh Bartlett.

H W BARTLETT
Private Secretary



THE GOVERNMENT OF VICTORIA

61. N.G. 4



COMMUNICATIONS

