Caroline

CONFIDENTIAL

Would you kindly please note and so organise.

A.J.C. 15/2

(1)

PA
Davis
23/12

PRIME MINISTER

PRINCE TURKI BIN ABDUL AZIZ

The above sent you a Christmas present this year and, I understand, has sent presents on previous Christmasses.

I think you ought to be aware that he seems to have been involved in a number of affairs (see attached FCO letter). On the other hand he is a senior member of the Saudi Royal Family.

If you agree, since it seems likely that he could well get unsavoury publicity in the future, I suggest that Caroline ensures that any future presents (which we could not refuse without causing offence) are not retained by you but suitably disposed of. You may wish to let Caroline have any previous presents that you can recall.

One silver (not sterling) box plus flowers.

Last Christmas - flowers only

A.J.C.

11 February 1983

MT

CONFIDENTIAL

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 July 1983

Mr. Fletcher PS 22/7
Mrs Stephens o/r.
AM 22/7.

Dear John,

Saudi Arabia

GR papers — Caroline Stephens wrote on behalf of the Prime Minister on 13 June to Prince Turki bin Abdul Aziz, thanking him for flowers he sent after the election.

Our Embassy at Jedda have written to say that Saudi protocol requires that messages to a Prince as close to the King as Prince Turki (they are full brothers), should either be signed by the Prime Minister personally, or conveyed directly by HM Ambassador. So Sir James Craig passed on the message orally.

Yours ever,

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 February 1983

Dear John,

Saudi Arabia: Prince Turki Bin Abdul Aziz

You asked for background on Prince Turki bin Abdul Aziz, who sent the Prime Minister a silver box at Christmas.

Prince Turki is the fourth of seven sons of the late King Abdul Aziz by Hassa Bint Sudairi. King Fahd is another of the seven, who together form a formidable bloc within the Saudi royal family. Turki is the only one of the seven brothers not to occupy a government position at present. He was Vice Minister of Defence until 1979 and played a significant part in negotiations on the British Aerospace Saudi Arabian Air Defence Project.

The Prince has been less lucky in America. In 1981 his American Private Secretary and nanny sued him, alleging that they had been held in his palace in Saudi Arabia and beaten, starved and threatened with beheading (enclosed cutting from the Sunday Times of 22 November 1981). In June 1982 he himself brought an action for $210 million against Miami police officers who searched his apartment and disturbed his mother-in-law. The police, who had been

/tipped

tipped off that another servant girl was being held against her will, brought a counter action for assault by Prince Turki's bodyguards. This story too made headlines, and the US Government intervened to try to calm Prince Turki down.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

We were prisoners in royal household'

by John Barnes, Los Angeles

NE OF the most powerful embers of the Saudi Royal mily, Prince Turki bin ndulaziz, the head of state curity and brother of King alid, is being sued by two ung Americans who claim they re imprisoned, beaten, starved d threatened with beheading members of his palace house- d in Jeddah last year.

In a 44-page suit filed in a deral court in Washington, rious allegations are also de against Prince Turki's other-in-law, Sheikh Moham- d al-Fassi, who hitherto has en noted in America chiefly having had black pubic hairs nted on pink statues of nudes side his multi-million-dollar nsion in Beverly Hills (which ned down on New Year's y, 1980).

he plaintiffs, a 26-year-old lifornia businessman, Michael mas Core, and a 30-year-old erness from Maryland, Gloria n Banks, are claiming $30 lion in damages.

or Core, the story began in eva in the spring of 1980, n, he says, the sheikh mised him $3,000 a month d the finest lodging, food, cal treatment . . . and all expenses" if he would work private secretary to Prince and to the sheikh himself. Everything was fine at first," Core, who is now back in Francisco. "I had my own ry suite at the Interconti- al Hotel in Geneva. And I flew with the royal ly to London, where they three floors of the Park r Hotel in Knightsbridge, I again had my own pent- e suite."

handled correspondence the a-Fassi trading com- , which has an office off London's Sloane Street. He also arranged a shipment of Scottish ponies to the Royal Family in Jeddah. In July last year, the family flew home to Saudi Arabia and Core went with them. "Everything changed the minute I got off the plane, he says. This is his account:

The first night, he did not even have a bed in Prince Turki's Alhamra palace. Then he was given a dirty cubicle with a mattress. The only food he ever got was left-over rice, which he had to eat with his hands.

His passport had been taken away on his arrival. His mail was intercepted and kept from him and he was refused permission to get in touch with the American embassy.

Within two weeks, he collapsed from exhaustion, lack of food, and the heat (there was no air-conditioning in the servants' quarters despite the broiling desert summer). He was taken to Jeddah's new medical clinic — and while he was there a royal guard sat at his bedside to make sure he did not try to get a message to the American embassy.

Later, when he was taken with Prince Turki and his family on a holiday trip to the Red Sea coast, he was thrown into a 10ft-deep pool containing just a few inches of water, and broke his heel-bone. Prince Turki stood by laughing.

He told Sheikh al-Fassi he wanted to quit and go home. The sheikh replied: "How dare you reject the royal family? You've never had it so wonderful." French guards employed by Prince Turki held Core while the sheikh beat him and threatened to kill him if he ever tried to leave the palace.

It was then, says Core, that Gloria Jean Banks arrived in Jeddah. She had been asked by an agency in the US to look after one of the Saudi royal children for 1,000 dollars a month. She hesitated because she did not want to leave her husband; but Princess Hend—wife of Prince Turki and sister of Sheikh al-Fassi — telephoned her from Jeddah and pressed her to come.

The princess promised, says Mrs Banks, that she would be given "quarters" in a "royal palace that would make the White House seem like the Ramada Inn." She was also told that en route from the US she could stop in London and buy anything she wanted and it would all be paid for.

To this young black woman, who worked as a nanny and who had never been out of America, it seemed like the opportunity of a lifetime, particularly as she was told her husband would be able to join her for long paid vacations in Europe and that an American nurse was to be hired as a companion and helper. But this, she says, is what happened:

In London there was no shopping: she was immediately transferred to an airliner to Jeddah. There, her passport was taken from her on her first night while she slept. When she was taken to see Sheikh al-Fassi, he ordered her to kiss his feet. "I'm an American and you can't make me do that kind of thing," she said, and also told him that she would no longer allow the royal children to bite people and spit at them.

He ordered the French guards to force her to kneel at his feet, and then he told her that if she didn't behave, he would cut off her head.

The next day, she saw the Sheikh beating other governesses, who were from Tunisia and other Arab countries. They told her they were being kept against their will but there was nothing they could do about it. They showed her their scars. After only 48 hours, she told Princess Hend she wanted to go home.

Princess Hend told her: "You're not supposed to think. I'm royalty. Don't you dare talk to me that way." Guards dragged her away, and threw her into a darkened room with no bedding, where she was kept for five days. She had to use the floor as a toilet. Each day, Sheikh al-Fassi beat and kicked her. Once he called her a "black nigger" and said he would teach her to "act and think like a Saudi."

Core says the guards threatened to kill them both if they talked to each other. He managed to push a note under Gloria Banks's door, asking her to contact his mother in California if she was released. She was; and she did so. Mrs Core phoned the State Department and demanded action.

Embassy officials in Jeddah were told to get in touch with Core. Prince Turki allegedly denied that he was at the Palace. And the officials said they could not try to visit the palace without permission.

But then, Core says, Prince Turki installed a telex machine in the palace and ordered him to operate it to handle royal family business matters around the world. "They didn't realise I could also use it to get help," Core says. He telexed his mother in Santa Barbara, California. "There we were talking to each other with our fingers on our telex machines half a world apart. It was the most wonderful moment in my life."

He also telexed the US embassy in Jeddah. And then an embassy official who had been trying to telephone him every day for weeks was suddenly put through by a new palace servant, who did not know that Core was forbidden to use the phone.

Embassy officials told Prince Turki he could not hold American citizens against their will. An embassy car came to the palace, took Core to the airport, and put him on a plane to London. Core says he got one final beating from Sheikh al-Fassi.

According to Core, Princess Hend said: "Even after you return to the United States, if we want we will snuff you out just like that—" and she snapped her fingers.

The State Department is trying to stay out of the affair, for fear of offending the Saudis. The official who rescued Core and Mrs Banks has been told not to make statements, on the ground that to do so would "seriously impair the officer's ability to continue effectively" his work in Jeddah.

Letters from the State Department make clear that it does not want the official to give evidence that he advised Core to sign statements, prepared by Prince Turki's family, that he had not been harmed—not that a statement signed under duress would stand up in an American court. Mrs Banks alleges she also had to sign papers saying she was required to leave the palace because she had committed theft and beaten the children.

The State Department has already been embarrassed by the release under the Freedom of Information Act of cables between Washington and the embassy dealing with the steps taken to free Core.

Prince Turki's lawyers in Washington, Baker & Hostetler, say: "We can't make any comment." They have submitted to the US district court in Washington a motion to dismiss the action, on grounds that include an assertion that the US court lacks jurisdiction over the defendants. The plaintiffs have filed a counter-motion to have that motion set aside.

SUNDAY TIMES 27 NOV 1983

me
USA.

Prime Minister

Apologies for manuscript (Xmas party!)

2. PRINCE TURKI (personality note attached) wanted to give you a very expensive present. On being told the rules he suggested that he should instead make a donation to a charity of your choice.

3. I do not know, but suspect that he is thinking of several thousand pounds.

4. As the Foreign Office letter (attached) suggests, he is probably trying to build up a connexion with No. 10. It has been made clear to me that he would expect a letter from me conveying your thanks for any donation.

5. Nevertheless, I do not see why you should nominate a recipient. Since the sum may well be large, would you like me to suggest that it is divided between the NSPCC and the Stoke Mandeville Hospital?

As he lives in Bucks – and is the P.T.D. International Year of the Disabled – I think it

A. J. Coles 17/12

would be a good idea if
the Donahoe went to
Sloan Kettering. We can
write a short letter for him about
it and I am very happy to
sign it. Will sign any
number for people who just
to identify.

MT

CONFIDENTIAL

c. Miss Stephens

NOTE FOR THE FILE

PRINCE TURKI

I spoke to Sir Harold Beeley today and explained that the Prime Minister would be most appreciative if Prince Turki wished to make a donation to the funds being raised by Mr. Jimmy Savile for the Stoke Mandeville Hospital. In due course, the appropriate procedure would probably be for a cheque to be sent to Jimmy Savile by Prince Turki. I had no doubt that the Prime Minister would be willing to send a letter of thanks.

Sir Harold Beeley said that he had now learned from Prince Turki that he would be very glad to contribute to a charity named by the Prime Minister. This particular suggestion would now be put to him and Sir Harold would be in touch with me again after the Christmas holidays.

A.J.C. 18/12.

18 December 1981

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 December 1981

Dear John,

Prince Turki bin Abdul Aziz

You asked for information on Prince Turki. He accompanied Prince Fahd to lunch at No 10 on 18 September. I enclose a brief personality note.

Since Prince Turki is to some extent the black sheep of the 'Sudairi Seven' (though obviously not so much as to be excluded from the lunch at No 10), there is a risk that behind his recent offer lies a general ambition to cultivate contacts and influence in this country. He is presumably keen to be back in favour in Saudi Arabia too.

Staff problems at Turki's household in Buckinghamshire and his pressure to arrange charter flights for his family from Heathrow have caused difficulties this year for Government departments. The Sunday Times recently gave prominence to a lawsuit in America brought by two of the Prince's former American employees.

Yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing St

CONFIDENTIAL

TURKI BIN ABDUL AZIZ

Formerly Vice Minister of Defence and Aviation. "Resigned" 1979.

Born 1934 – fourth of the seven sons of Abdul Aziz by Hassa bint Sudairi. Appointed to his present post in 1969. Had an interest in the Saudi Contracting and Catering Company and used his influence to obtain lucrative catering and servicing contracts from companies with defence contracts. On his appointment he passed over his business interests to his full brothers Naif and Ahmad (qqv) and then to an uncle, Bandar al Sudairi.

Quiet and approachable but lazy and notably unpunctual even for a Saudi prince. A quieter humoured man than Sultan, he was effective in the negotiations of the Saudi Arabian Air Defence Assistance Project agreement in April/May 1973.

Was – and may still be – married to Nura, a daughter of Abdullah bin Abdurrahman (qv), by whom he has had four sons and two daughters. Also married a Lebanese wife from the notorious al Fassi family. This eventually cost him his job.

Speaks very little English.