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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T194/83

Her Excellency Mrs Margaret Thatcher
The British Prime Minister

I have received Your Excellency's letter in which you expressed regret at the incorrect information broadcast by the BBC.

I would like to thank you for your concern and I assure you of the keenness, and strong desire of the Kingdom to protect the co-operation and friendship existing between our two countries in view of their shared interests and of their excellent mutual relations.

At the same time I thank Your Excellency for the sincere words you expressed concerning the Kingdom's efforts to secure peace and an end to the disputes in the area; in particular the ceasefire agreement in Lebanon.

I trust that all of us hope from the depths of our hearts that security and peace will be achieved in this vital part of the world and in other areas of mankind's world; it is worth saying that sincere efforts towards the fulfilment of this are our shared aims.

I share Your Excellency's hope that we will meet again to exchange frank and useful views on the leading topics of the day.

Signed

FAHD bin ABDUL AZIZ AL SAUD

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



دولة السيدة / ماجريتا تاتشـرر

رئيسة الوزراء البريطانية


تلقيت رسالة د ولتك التي عبّرت عن الأسف للمعلومات غير الصحيحة التي اذاعتها محطة بي بي سي .

وانني اذ اشكر على هذا الاهتمام أوكد حرص المملكة ورغبتها الشديدة في رعاية التعاون والصداقة القائمة بين البلدين الصديقين في ظل مصالحهما المشتركة والعلاقات الجيدة المتبادلة بينهما .

وفي نفس الوقت أشكر د ولتك على تعبيرك الصادق عن جهود المملكة للتوصل الى السلام وانهاء المنازعات في المنطقة وعلى وجه الخصوص الوصول الى اتفاقية وقف اطلاق النار في لبنان .

انني واثق اننا جميعا نأمل من اعماقنا ان يتحقق الامن والسلام في هذه المنطقة الحيوية من العالم وفي غيرها من مناطق الانسان الأخرى. وانه لجدير بالقول بان السعي المخلص الى تحقيق ذلك هو هدفنا المشترك .

انني اشارك د ولتك الأمل في ان نجتمع مرة ثانية لتبادل وجهات النظر الصريحة والمفيدة في الامور الرئيسية المعاصرة . ،،،


فهد بن عبد العزيز آل سعود

الرياض في ١ صفر ١٤٠٤ هـ .

الموافق ٥ نوفمبر ١٩٨٣ م .



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7

21 November 1983

Dear John,

DUB
21/11Message from King Fahd about the BBC

With your letter of 18 October you enclosed a message from the Prime Minister to the King of Saudi Arabia, in reply to one he had sent complaining of an allegedly inaccurate news item carried by the BBC External Services. I enclose the original of a reply we have now received from King Fahd on our friends' channels, together with the Saudi's translation of it, ~~provided that you agree~~

Jedda have reported that, when the Prime Minister's letter was handed to Prince Turki al Faisal, who brought the original message to London, he appeared to be impressed by its courteous terms. From the King's reply, it is clear that the Saudis now consider the incident closed.

The last paragraph of the Prime Minister's letter mentioned in general and non-committal terms the possibility of a meeting with the King (we had heard on other channels that he might welcome this). King Fahd refers to the idea in equally non-committal terms in his reply. HM Ambassador Jedda will take an appropriate opportunity to sound the Saudis out on King Fahd's intentions

Yours ever,

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

P F Ricketts

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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