



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 December 1983

Dear John,

President Nimeiri of the Sudan

President Nimeiri of the Sudan arrived in London on 3 December for a short private visit (he leaves late on 9 December). The President is returning from a long trip during which he visited Rome, Paris and Washington, where he saw Presidents Pertini, Mitterrand and Reagan respectively. While in Washington he received medical treatment. The main purpose of his visit here is to rest following treatment. As I mentioned on the telephone, he has, however, said he would like to see the Prime Minister on 9 December, if at all possible.

Our relations with Sudan are good; we have close military, aid and commercial ties with the country. In recent years the Nimeiri regime has been consistently friendly towards the UK and helpful to us over a number of issues, including the Falklands. Although weakened by internal political and economic problems, Sudan is an important pro-Western influence in the Horn of Africa and, to a lesser extent, within the Middle East. President Nimeiri represents a moderate voice in the Arab world and in Africa. He has consistently advocated peaceful settlement of African disputes, for example in Chad, the Western Sahara, Ogaden and Eritrea. Nevertheless recent developments within Sudan give some cause for concern for the future stability of the country and its development and it would be a useful opportunity to express our concern to the President in person. We therefore recommend that the Prime Minister agree to see President Nimeiri briefly on 9 December if possible.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

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10 Downing Street

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 1AA



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8 December, 1983

President Nimeiri of the Sudan

Thank you for your letter of 7 December. As I told Roger Bone on the telephone this morning, the Prime Minister would be glad to see President Nimeiri at 1515 on Friday, 9 December.

A. J. COLES

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



10 DOWNING STREET



Prime Minister.

President of the Sudan.

He is in London and would like
to see you.

Agree to receive him at
15.15 on Friday, 9 December?

Yes out A.S.C. 7/12