

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 231^c / 83

TOP COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

9318 - 3

DD 240600Z JEDDA

GRS 364

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FM FCO 232330Z DEC 83

TO IMMEDIATE JEDDA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 479 OF 23 DECEMBER

ROLLS ROYCE - SA^uUDIA

MRC 185/58.		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 60		
25 DEC 1983		
DESK OFFICER		RECEIVED BY
IF EX	PA	Action taken

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO KING FAHD.

AFTER GREETING

I WAS MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR MAJESTY'S KIND MESSAGE WHICH OUR SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY BROUGHT BACK FROM HIS INSTRUCTIVE VISIT TO YOUR KINGDOM.

I HAVE LEARNED FROM HIM THAT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE PURCHASE OF TEN FURTHER BOEING 747 AIRCRAFT FOR YOUR NATIONAL AIRLINE, AND THAT ROLLS-ROYCE LIMITED IS ONE OF THE TWO POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS OF ENGINES. I UNDEFSTAND THAT A DECISION ON THE CHOICE OF ENGINE MANUFACTURER MAY BE VERY CLOSE, AND THAT THIS DECISION MAY NOT BE IN ROLLS-ROYCE'S FAVOUR EVEN THOUGH A TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT OF THEIR PRODUCT HAS YET TO BE MADE. SAUDIA IS ONE OF ROLLS-ROYCE'S MOST VALUED OVERSEAS CUSTOMERS. I THEREFORE WISHED TO WRITE DIRECTLY TO YOUR MAJEST TO UNDERLINE HOW IMPORTANT THE CONTINUANCE OF THIS RELATIONSHIP IS TO ROLLS-ROYCE, AND TO ASK THAT THEY BE INVITED TO MAKE A TECHNICAL PRESENTATION TO THE AIRLINE. THE LATEST VERSION OF THE ROLLS-ROYCE ENGINE, THE RB211-524D4, HAS NOT YET BEEN ANALYSED BY SAUDIA, AND I AM SURE THAT THE AIRLINE WILL BE IMPRESSED BY ITS EXCELLENCE. THE CHAIRMAN OF ROLLS-ROYCE, SIR WILLIAM DUNCAN, WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO VISIT YOUR KINGDOM AT AN EARLY DATE FOR THIS PURPOSE. I DO HOPE THAT YOUR MAJEST WILL BE WILLING TO GIVE THIS SUGGESTION FAVOURABLE CONSIDERATION.

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ON A SEPARATE MATTER, MAY I SAY THAT I AM DELIGHTED THAT OUR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY AND OUR SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE WILL BE VISITING YOUR KINGDOM SHORTLY. I HOPE THAT THESE VISITS WILL FORM PART OF A PATTERN OF FREQUENT MINISTERIAL CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE GRAVE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. MOREOVER, THERE IS AN EAST/WEST ASPECT OF THE SITUATION IN THE LEBANON WHICH WE CANNOT IGNORE. IN SUCH DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS TIMES I THINK IT IS OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE THAT LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES SHOULD MEET FREQUENTLY AND TAKE COUNSEL TOGETHER SO THAT WE MAY BE BETTER ABLE TO DEFEND AND FURTHER THOSE THINGS IN WHICH WE BELIEVE.

I SEND, YOUR MAJESTY, MY DEEPEST RESPECTS AND WARM REGARDS TO YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY.

HOWE

LIMITED

MAED

MRD

TRED

NAD

PS

PS/MR. LUCE

PS/MR. WHITNEY

PS/PUS

SIR. J. LEAHY

MR. ADAMS

IMMEDIATE

CR140

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 231600Z

FM JEDDAH 231527Z DEC 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 619 OF 23 DECEMBER.

ADVANCE COPY

MALED

YOUR TELNOS 476 AND 477:
ROLLS ROYCE-SAUDI

1. I RECOGNISE THAT THIS IS AN EXTREMELY DELICATE ISSUE, BUT TO HAVE ANY IMPACT ON THE KING THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE WILL NEED TO BE FAIRLY EXPLICIT. AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE DTI TEXT, I WOULD NOT WISH TO RECOMMEND ANY SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES.

2. IT WOULD BE CUSTOMARY FOR THE LETTER TO BEGIN QUOTE AFTER GREETINGS UNQUOTE. THE FIRST LINE SHOULD BEGIN QUOTE I WAS MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR MAJESTY'S KIND MESSAGE UNQUOTE. AN EXPRESSION OF RESPECT AND REGARDS AT THE END WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. I ALSO RECOMMEND THAT THE LAST SENTENCE (NO DOUBT... KINGDOM) BE OMITTED.

3. IF THE MESSAGE IS APPROVED, I SHALL DO MY BEST TO SECURE AN EARLY AUDIENCE WITH THE KING. IT WOULD BE TRUE TO SAUDI FORM, HOWEVER, IF IT TOOK MORE THAN A DAY TO GET IN. IN THAT CASE I SHALL TRY TO ENSURE AT LEAST THAT THE MESSAGE IS DELIVERED BY 26 DECEMBER.

PLEASE PASS ADVANCE COPY TO RICKETS, PRIVATE OFFICE

CRAIG

NNNN

*may. Min't what
I am deeply concerned about
the given schedule in the M.O.
Moreover I believe that there is
insufficient contact or discussion with
counter such as ourselves who
Moreover there is an
E/W aspect to the etc
in the Feb to thro diff
& disagree this imp
that like needed action
best frequently & late*

five



Bf

L50

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Part 1

23 December 1983

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the enclosed message from the Prime Minister to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to be despatched urgently.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Ruth Thompson (Department of Trade and Industry) and Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

DAVID BARCLAY

The Resident Clerk,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

DJG

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO KING FAHD OF SAUDI ARABIA

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No.**

After Greeting

I was most grateful for your Majesty's kind message which our Secretary of State for Trade and Industry brought back from his instructive visit to your Kingdom.

I have learned from him that consideration is being given to the purchase of ten further Boeing 747 aircraft for your national airline, and that Rolls-Royce Limited is one of the two potential suppliers of engines. I understand that a decision on the choice of engine manufacturer may be very close, and that this decision may not be in Rolls-Royce's favour even though a technical assessment of their product has yet to be made. Saudia is one of Rolls-Royce's most valued overseas customers. I therefore wished to write directly to your Majesty to underline how important the continuance of this relationship is to Rolls-Royce, and to ask that they be invited to make a technical presentation to the airline. The latest version of the Rolls-Royce engine, the RB211-524D4, has not yet been analysed by Saudia, and I am sure that the airline will be impressed by its excellence. The Chairman of Rolls-Royce, Sir William Duncan, would be delighted to visit your Kingdom at an early date for this purpose.

/i do hope

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I do hope that your Majesty will be willing to give this suggestion favourable consideration.

On a separate matter, may I say that I am delighted that our Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and our Secretary of State for Defence will be visiting your Kingdom shortly. I hope that these visits will form part of a pattern of frequent Ministerial contacts between our two countries. I am deeply concerned about the grave situation in the Middle East. Moreover, there is an East/West aspect of the situation in the Lebanon which we cannot ignore. In such difficult and dangerous times I think it is of the highest importance that like-minded countries should meet frequently and take counsel together so that we may be better able to defend and further those things in which we believe.

I send, Your Majesty, my deepest respects and warm regards to you and your country.

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a lka DTJ
7-2-2009

After Greeting

I was most grateful for your Majesty's kind message which ^{sent} ~~my~~ Secretary of State for Trade and Industry brought back from his instructive visit to your Kingdom.

I have learned from him that consideration is being given to the purchase of ten further Boeing 747 aircraft for your national airline, and that Rolls-Royce Limited is one of the two potential suppliers of engines. I understand that a decision on the choice of engine manufacturer may be very close, and that this decision may not be in Rolls-Royce's favour even though a technical assessment of their product has yet to be made. Saudia is one of Rolls-Royce's most valued overseas customers. I therefore wished to write directly to your Majesty to underline how important the continuance of this relationship is to Rolls-Royce, and to ask that they be invited to make a technical presentation to the airline. The latest version of the Rolls-Royce engine, the RB211-524D4, has not yet been analysed by Saudia, and I am sure that the airline will be impressed by its excellence. The Chairman of Rolls-Royce, Sir William Duncan, ^{would be delighted} ~~is ready~~ to visit ~~Saudi~~ ^{your Kingdom} ~~Arabia~~ at an early date for this purpose. I do hope that your Majesty will be willing to give this suggestion favourable consideration. *

Please accept, your Majesty, the assurance of my highest respect.