

cc MAJL OPS

SUBJECT

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T120 #/84

SUBJECT filed on: Pakistan
Negotiation
Sept 79
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN
General M. Zia-ul-Haq

ISLAMABAD
57/2/CMLA
6 Shawaal 1404 A H
5 July 1984

Her Excellency
The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
London

Dear Madam Prime Minister,

I thank Your Excellency for your kind letter of May 2 in which you have responded so positively on a range of issues touching upon our bilateral cooperation, including the matter relating to the Vosper Thornycroft Frigates for the Pakistan Navy.

I would also like to avail myself of the occasion of the visit to the United Kingdom of Admiral Tariq K Khan, to convey to Your Excellency my greetings and high regard. I am sure his visit and his discussion with MOD(UK) authorities will lay the basis for greater collaboration in future between the Navies of our two countries. I am particularly mindful of the fact that this is the first formal visit of a Pakistani Chief of the Naval Staff to England after a gap of almost twenty years. Naturally, our expectations from this visit are rather high.

I have asked Admiral Khan that he should, at the conclusion of the official phase of his visit, carry out detailed discussions with MOD(N) on the performance and capabilities of Type 21 Frigates which we are considering to acquire for our Navy. Among the several alternative offers available, Type 21 will be our first option provided it meets all our operational requirements. What we need is a modern ship which will serve the Navy in a cost effective manner for the next 15-20 years. Admiral Khan will also therefore utilize the opportunity to explore the suitability of Type 42 and 22 ships for our needs and to see if they are, or can be made to come, within our financial capability.



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Our intention is to have two ships built in England and the third in Pakistan in collaboration with the British Shipyard and MOD(UK). The success of the programme, its further development, and subsequent support of the ships, will depend a great deal on the technical and financial assistance which we hope will be extended by your Government.

Several other West European shipyards have expressed a keen interest in providing frigates to us on extremely competitive and attractive terms. I would, however, like to assure Your Excellency that, in the event of the terms and conditions contained in all the offers being comparable, we would continue to prefer to buy British.

Please accept, Madam Prime Minister, my best wishes for Your Excellency's health and happiness and for the continued prosperity and well-being of the friendly people of the United Kingdom.

With profound regards,

Yours sincerely,

General
(M. Zia-ul-Haq)