

Re 80

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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S

9 April 1984

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No: T 56/84

Dear Prime Minister,

Since I understand you are leaving for an official visit overseas I thought that I should let you have a short message about the aid support that we are proposing in response to your Government's request for the imminent order of ONGC helicopters.

We have tried to respond positively to this request. We both want the fullest possible use and mutual benefit from our aid. This order, extending the links between Westlands and your industry, would help greatly to achieve this. And it would be a striking demonstration of the joint benefits flowing from our aid programme.

Almost as important to me is the fact that the aid programme was agreed between us when you so kindly came to London for the Festival of India - a visit and a Festival which we all enjoyed enormously.

Yours sincerely
Rajiv Gandhi

Her Excellency Shrimati Indira Gandhi

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10 DOWNING STREET

6 April, 1984

From the Private Secretary

BK awaiting confirmation
copy from DTI

Westland Helicopters for India

Thank you for your letter of 5 April.

I enclose a revised text of the proposed message to Mrs. Gandhi which the Prime Minister has approved. I should be grateful if you could arrange for its delivery - you have the discretion requested in your paragraph 4.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Peter Ricketts (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and John Gieve (Chief Secretary's Office).

A. J. COLES

Miss Ruth Thompson,
Department of Trade and Industry

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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

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Her Excellency Shrimati Indira Gandhi



ccpc ①

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PS / Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

5 April 1984

John Coles Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Prime Minister

A free message?

Dear John,

It is not a very warm letter
A.S.C. 5/4

WESTLAND HELICOPTERS FOR INDIA

You will recall that the Prime Minister gave consent in her letter of 7 March to Government assistance towards Westlands' efforts to win a contract to sell helicopters to the Indians. Since that time, negotiations on the contract have been proceeding and the decision rests with the Indian Government.

2 However, yesterday officials here heard from Westlands that the team from the French company, Aerospatiale, had returned to Delhi carrying with it a message from President Mitterand in support of their bid. Advice from our High Commissioner in Delhi, and the advice of officials here, is that it would be helpful if the Prime Minister were to send an equivalent message to Mrs Gandhi; a draft is attached. My Secretary of State shares this view, subject only to the consent of the Foreign Secretary.

3 Mrs Gandhi is departing from Delhi on an official visit to the Middle East on 7 April; if the message is to be delivered before she goes, we need to secure the Prime Minister's agreement fairly urgently, and relay instructions to Delhi first thing tomorrow morning, 6 April.

4 I would be grateful if you would seek the Prime Minister's agreement to the transmission of a message along these lines. It would also be helpful to have your specific agreement to our High Commissioner in New Delhi delivering the message at the time he judges most appropriate and most likely to be effective; this is a matter which will only be possible to decide at the very last minute, following further soundings in Delhi tomorrow.

5 I am sending a copy of this letter to Peter Ricketts in the Foreign Secretary's office and I would be grateful if he too could confirm as soon as possible on 6 April that Sir Geoffrey Howe is

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content for this message to be sent. I am also copying this to John Gieve in the Chief Secretary's office.

Yours sincerely,
Ruth

RUTH THOMPSON
Private Secretary

JHAFJ

DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MRS GANDHI

Since I understand you are leaving for an official visit overseas, I thought that I ~~might just say a word~~ ^{should let you have a short message} about the aid support that we are proposing in response to your Government's request for the imminent order of ONGC helicopters.

~~We have tried to respond positively to this request~~
~~I hope that you will agree that in responding to this request, we have been fully forthcoming.~~ We both want the fullest possible use and mutual benefit from our aid, ~~and~~ ^{this} this order, extending the links between Westlands and your industry, would help greatly to achieve this.

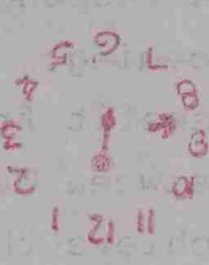
~~Of course, it is for you to choose.~~ ^{And it} But this would be a striking demonstration of the joint benefits flowing from our aid programme.

Almost as an incident to me is the fact that the early programme was agreed between us when you so kindly came to London for the Festival of India - a visit and a Festival which we all enjoyed enormously. ~~and~~

India Relations Pt 2



Since I understand you are leaving for an official visit overseas, I thought that I might put a word about the aid support that we are proposing in regard to your Government's request for the imminent relief of OREC. I understand that you are leaving for an official visit overseas, I thought that I might put a word about the aid support that we are proposing in regard to your Government's request for the imminent relief of OREC. I understand that you are leaving for an official visit overseas, I thought that I might put a word about the aid support that we are proposing in regard to your Government's request for the imminent relief of OREC.



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of course, it is for you to answer. I would be glad to see a description of the joint venture being formed in all programs.