

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T153/84 10 DOWNING STREET



cc FCO.

Subject a master  
ep.

THE PRIME MINISTER

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August

Dear Prime Minister

I was very sorry to have to postpone my visit to your country at short notice when I was so much looking forward to coming.

But I did particularly want you to have the enclosed gift of Crown Derby china which I had hoped to be able to give you personally. It is something which I collect myself and I hope you will like it.

Perhaps we can drink coffee  
from it together before many  
months have passed.

Very good wish.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

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cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 August 1984

The Prime Minister was very grateful for the skilful way in which you handled the Malaysians over the postponement of her visit.

She has decided to send Dr Mahathir a further note which I enclose, together with a gift that she would have given him had she been able to go through with her visit in September. I should be grateful if you could arrange for the note and gift to be delivered.

I cannot yet give you any guidance on when it might be possible to reinstate the visit but, as will no doubt be evident to you, it could not be before the very end of the year or the beginning of next year at the earliest.

Can I add my own thanks for all the work which you and your staff did to prepare for the visit. I hope that a good part of the results will still be useful when the visit does eventually take place.

Charles Powell

His Excellency Mr D H Gillmore, CMG.

DWF F 3/30

**IMMEDIATE**  
**ADVANCE COPY**

NRK 25/30

DD FCO (300900Z)

CP SINGAPORE ( 7:TIONED)

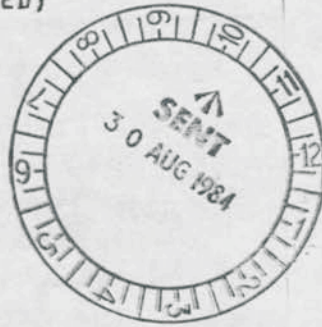
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FM KUALA LUMPUR 300700Z AUG 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 303 OF 30 AUGUST

INFO PRIORITY SINGAPORE, ROUTINE COLOMBO, ROUTINE JAKARTA

YOUR TELNO 281: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO MALAYSIA

1. ALTHOUGH IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO SEE DR MAHATHIR HIMSELF LAST NIGHT, I WAS ABLE TO DELIVER TO HIS PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY AT HIS HOME THE TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE. THE PRIVATE SECRETARY UNDERTOOK TO INFORM DR MAHATHIR OF THE CONTENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND TO ARRANGE FOR ME TO CALL PERSONALLY ON HIM EARLY THIS MORNING. THIS WAS JUST AS WELL. THE LEAK IN COLOMBO REACHRD AT LEAST ONE OF THE MORNING NEWSPAPERS HERE AND WAS A HEADLINE ITEM ON THE BBC AND LOCAL RADIO. WE HAVE, I THINK, AVOIDED BY THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH THE WORST, IF NOT ALL, OF THE POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT.

2. I SAW DR MAHATHIR THIS MORNING AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND GAVE HIM THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE. DRAWING ON THE POINTS IN YOUR TLENO 282 (NOT TO ALL) I SAID I KNEW THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED THAT EVENTS IN THE UK HAD FORCED HER TO MAKE THIS DECISION. SHE HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO HER VISIT, TO SEEING MALAYSIA AT FIRST HAND AND, ABOVE ALL, TO CONTINUING THE PERSONAL DISCUSSIONS WITH DR MAHATHIR BEGUN IN LONDON LAST YEAR. I HOPED THAT DR MAHATHIR WOULD UNDERSTAND HOW VITAL IT WAS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEE THE PRESENT INDUSTRIAL PROBLEMS IN THE UK THROUGH TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. I ADDED THAT IT WAS A MATTER OF GREAT REGRET THAT THIS DECISION WAS BOUND TO CAUSE INCONVENIENCE, NOT ONLY TO THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT, BUT TO DR MAHATHIR PERSONAL H, SINCE I KNEW HE HAD HAD TO REARRANGE HIS OWN TRAVEL PLANS TO FIT THE DATES FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT (MY TELNOS 151 AND 158) I HOPED THAT THE VISIT COULD BE REARRANGED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. DR MAHATHIR WAS CLEARLY SAD AT THE NEWS. BUT HE SAID HE QUITE UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS FOR THE POSTPONEMENT. HE HAD BEEN FOLLOWING EVENTS IN THE UK AND KNEW HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOR BRITIAN THAT SHE SHOULD BE "SUCCESSFUL IN HER ENDEVOURS". HE SAID SPECIFIC PLPHHAT HE WISHED HER WELL AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

4. DR MAHATHIR DID NOT MENTION MAS. NOR DID I. HE IS A SHREWD

4. DR MAHATHIR DID NOT MENTION MAS. NOR DID I. HE IS A SHREWD ENOUGH JUDGE OF CHARACTER TO KNOW VERY WELL THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD NOT BE DEFLECTED FROM HER INTENTION TO VISIT MALAYSIA BECAUSE OF A PROBLEM OF THIS KIND.

5. I SHALL ALSO BE CALLING LATER TODAY ON TENGKU RITHAUDDEEN, THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND WILL REITERATE THE PRIME MINISTER'S REGRET AT THE DECISION, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE HARD WORK AND PLANNING THAT MFA OFFICIALS HAVE PUT IN.

6. I HAVE ALSO SENT A MESSAGE TO THE CHIEF MINISTER OF KEDEH AND HOPE TO SPEAK TO HIM PERSOVALTAH CV UHE TELEPHONE LATER THIS EVENING. SUBJECT TO DATUK NAHAR'S VIEWS, I THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO WRITE TO THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE SULTAN, WHO AS YOU KNOW PLANNED TO OFFER MRS THATCHER AND HER PARTY LUNCHEON AFTER A PRIVATE AUDIENCE. I TAKE IT THAT YOU WOULD NOT (NOT) WANT ME TO SAY THAT WHEN THE VISIT IS REINSTATED, I HOPE IT WILL STILL BE POSSIBLE FOR PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT KEDAH AND TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE WITH THE SULTAN, THIS MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE AN AWKWARD HOSTAGE.

7. I AM ALSO TRYING TO REACH TUN ISMAIL. FIRST INDICATIONS FROM HIS STAFF ARE THAT HE WILL WISH TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PLANS FOR THE INAUGURAL BANQUET OF THE MALAYSIA-BRITISH SOCIETY, NOTWITHSTANDING MRS THATCHER'S ABSENCE.

8. I AM REFLECTING FURTHER ON WHAT OTHER STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN TO MINIMISE THE DAMAGE AND WILL OFFER SUGGESTIONS SOON. ONE POINT WHICH YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER IS THE POSSIBILITY OF A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE MALAYSIA-BRITISH SOCIETY ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE GET-TOGETHER IS STILL ON. IF TUN ISMAIL IS AGREEABLE, HE OR I COULD READ THE MESSAGE TO THE ASSEMBLED COMPANY AT THE BANQUET. NEEDLESS TO SAY, IT WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR THE LEVEL OF BRITISH ATTENDANCE TO BE MAINTAINED. NOTHING WOULD BE WORSE THAN TO GIVE THE MALAYSIANS THE IMPRESSION THAT, BECAUSE MRS THATCHER WILL NO LONGER BE PRESENT, SENIOR BRITISH BUSINESSMEN ARE DROPPING OUT.

9. MEANWHILE WE ARE, OF COURSE, INFORMING OTHER PARTIES WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE VISIT OF THE POSTPONEMENT.

GILLMORE

NNNN

Seems  
a good  
idea.



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ecu.

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 August 1984

I enclose:

- (a) a letter from me to David Gillmore covering
- (b) a manuscript letter from the Prime Minister to the Malaysian Prime Minister together with
- (c) a gift from the Prime Minister to Dr Mahathir.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for delivery.

Charles Powell

Peter Ricketts Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

NK