

SUBJECT

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T218/80

CONFIDENTIAL

2159 - 2

OO CAIRO DESKBY 071230Z  
GRS 480  
CONFIDENTIAL  
DESKBY 071200Z NOV 80  
FM FCO 071115Z NOV 80  
TO IMMEDIATE CAIRO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 443 OF 7 NOVEMBER  
INFO MODUK (FOR MOD SALES AND DUS (PMS))  
MIPT: HAWK

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE:

QUOTE

I HOPE YOU WILL ALLOW ME, AT A TIME WHEN YOU LIKE ALL OF US MUST BE GREATLY PREOCCUPIED WITH EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, TO TAKE UP SOME OF YOUR TIME WITH A BILATERAL PROBLEM IN WHICH I HAVE BEEN TAKING A CLOSE INTEREST.

AS VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK MAY HAVE TOLD YOU, DURING HIS VERY INTERESTING AND USEFUL VISIT TO BRITAIN IN SEPTEMBER HE DISCUSSED WITH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY EGYPT'S REQUIREMENT FOR A NEW TRAINER AND GROUND-ATTACK AIRCRAFT, FOR WHICH BRITISH AEROSPACE ARE OFFERING THE HAWK. HE ALSO SAW THE AIRCRAFT IN A FLYING DISPLAY AT THE FARNBOROUGH AIR SHOW. I UNDERSTAND THAT IT MADE A FAVOURABLE IMPRESSION ON VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK AND ALSO ON THE SENIOR PERSONNEL OF THE EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE WHO HAVE FLOWN AND EVALUATED THE AIRCRAFT. FOR OUR PART, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT HAWK IS A BETTER AIRCRAFT THAN ITS RIVALS: IT IS NOT JUST A TRAINER BUT AN EFFECTIVE AND HARD HITTING GROUND ATTACK AIRCRAFT TOO, AND IT HAS PROVED ITS QUALITIES IN SERVICE WITH THE RAF. MOREOVER, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT BRITISH AEROSPACE WITH THE BACKING OF MY GOVERNMENT, WILL BE ABLE TO OFFER COMPETITIVE AND ATTRACTIVE CREDIT TERMS. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE BRITISH AEROSPACE PROPOSALS FOR CO-OPERATION IN EGYPT ARE REALISTIC AS WELL AS IMAGINATIVE, AND WILL ENABLE EGYPT TO BUILD UP THE EXPERTISE AND SKILLS REQUIRED FOR A MODERN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY. I HAVE INSTRUCTED MY OFFICIALS THAT THE ROYAL AIR FORCE SHOULD PREPARE A PROGRAMME OF ATTACHMENTS FOR THE EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE TO RAF STATIONS WHICH

1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

2159 - 2

OPERATE HAWK. THIS WOULD HELP TO FAMILIARISE YOUR PILOTS WITH THE TACTICAL OPERATION OF THE AIRCRAFT AND WOULD SUPPLEMENT THE PILOT CONVERSION AND ENGINEERING TRAINING THAT BRITISH AEROSPACE WILL BE PROVIDING UNDER CONTRACT.

I AM SENDING THIS MESSAGE TO YOU DIRECT BECAUSE I WANTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONSIDER THIS CONTRACT TO BE OF VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE, NOT ONLY TO BRITAIN BUT TO EGYPT AND TO OUR FUTURE BILATERAL RELATIONS. I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BECOME A UNIQUE AND SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN THE FRUITFUL PROCESS OF COLLABORATION IN THE DEFENCE FIELD WHICH HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN RECENT YEARS.

UNQUOTE

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

CARRINGTON

DISTRIBUTION  
STANDARD  
NENAD  
TRED  
MR J C MOBERLY

COPIES TO:  
MR MOUNTFIELD, TREASURY  
CRE5 D/TRADE