

PRIME MINISTER

Egyptian Defence Minister

He is visting the UK next month.
The Ministry of Defence and Foreign Office
hope you will receive him. He is an important
figure in Egypt, and there is some defence
sales business in prospect.

Agree to receive Field Marshal Abu
Ghazala at 9.30 on Tuesday, 6 March?

Yes not

A.S.C.

17 February, 1984.

bccr

FILE
da



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 February 1984

Egyptian Defence Minister

Thank you for your letter of 16 February.

The Prime Minister has agreed to receive
Field Marshal Abu Ghazala at 0930 on Tuesday,
6 March. 5.30

I shall be grateful for a brief by close
of play on 5 March.

I am copying this letter to Peter
Ricketts (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

A. J. COLES

Miss Wendy Anderton,
Ministry of Defence.



10 DOWNING STREET

No. Reply.

When? (45 minutes)

~~AA~~ $\frac{1}{2}$.
9.30 - 10.15
TUE 17 Feb 61



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1

Telephone 01-~~938 7022~~ 218 2111/3

MO 14/8

16th February 1984

Dear Caroline.

As you know, the Egyptian Defence Minister, Field Marshal Abu Ghazala, is to visit the UK next month from 4th-9th March at the Defence Secretary's invitation. It is very much hoped that the Prime Minister could agree to receive a brief courtesy call.

There have been some difficulties over arranging dates for this visit. Even at this relatively late stage, there remains a possibility that the Field Marshal will be unable to come on these dates. I will of course inform you immediately if there is any change. A draft programme which gives only the bare bones of the visit and makes no mention of a prospective call on the Prime Minister, has, however, been with the Egyptians for some weeks. The Egyptian Ambassador in London has made clear through official channels the importance attached to a call on the Prime Minister.

The FCO are also strongly in favour of such a call. The Field Marshal enjoys political influence extending well beyond his immediate defence responsibilities. A personality note is attached. He is one of 4 Deputy Prime Ministers and is tipped as a possibility to take over the vacant Vice-President position. The last high-level Egyptian visit was that of President Mubarak in February 1983. The Field Marshal did not, however, accompany him and has not, we understand, visited the UK since 1980. This will, therefore, be his first visit to the UK in his Defence capacity.

At the Field Marshal's own request, a large part of the visit will be devoted to defence equipment discussions. Although the UK used to be a major supplier of defence equipment to Egypt, our defence sales have been disappointing in recent years. This is due to lack of Egyptian funds and the influence of US aid. There are signs that the Egyptians now wish to diversify and are looking in our direction. In this context there are a number of key projects which could lead in the future to major sales.

Mrs C Ryder



/ If the Prime Minister felt able to receive a call by the Field Marshal, there are a number of slots in the Defence Minister's draft programme, also attached, where this could be pencilled in.

Yours ever

Wendy
(W ANDERTON) (MISS)
Private Secretary

ABU GHAZALA, FIELD MARSHAL MUHAMMAD ABDUL HALIM

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Military Production (September 1982).

Born 1 January 1930. Graduated Military Academy 1949 and entered the Artillery. Attended the Staff College in 1952. Artillery course at the Staff Academy from 1958 to 1961. Commander of Divisional Artillery 1967. During the October War commanded the 2nd Field Army artillery. Promoted Major General in 1974 and served as Chief of Staff to the Director of Artillery. In July 1976, after a course at the Nasser Higher Military Academy, appointed Defence Attache in Washington. In May 1980 appointed Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces and promoted to Lieutenant General. In October 1980 visited the UK at the CGS's invitation. He became Minister of Defence on General Badawi's death in a helicopter accident. Appointed Field Marshal in April 1982.

Abu Ghazala has a number of publications to his credit, allegedly 27 articles and books all dealing with artillery. While in America he attended the War Academy and obtained a diploma with honours, being the first Egyptian to do so. He also has a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce from Cairo University.

He was reported to have been particularly successful as Attache in the United States and have influenced US military aid policy towards Egypt. As Chief of Staff he made a number of statements to the press on the politico-military scene in the Middle East and Africa, and appeared to be particularly concerned about the alleged Soviet encirclement of Egypt. President Mubarak has used him as an emissary to the US and Sudan.

During his visit to Britain he was impressive, friendly, and articulate, making points firmly but tactfully. Though fairly blunt he is well attuned to economic and political affairs. He is seen as a political operator, unlike his predecessor. President Sadat appointed him to the NDP Politbureau, an augury for future high office. Not surprisingly he is well disposed towards the United States, and is generally cordial towards Britain. He is, however, sufficiently realistic to favour those whom he thinks offer the best to his country and himself. His promotion had been rumoured for sometime before Badawi's death.

Speaks English, French and Russian. He works hard, and likes exercise, especially tennis. He likes a drink and there are indications that his sense of humour can become coarse. Married with two sons and three daughters: his wife wears Islamic dress and speaks almost no English. His family take little part in public affairs.

Draft Outline Programme

VISIT
OF
FIELD MARSHAL ABU GHAZALA
MINISTER OF DEFENCE
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

SUNDAY 4 MARCH 1984

Dress: Non-Ceremonial Day Uniform

Arrive London Heathrow Airport by
Hounslow Suite.

Met by the Minister of State for Defence Procurement,
Mr Geoffrey Pattie. MP.

Leave the airport by car.

Arrive Sheraton Park Tower Hotel.

No official engagements.

Dress: Non-Ceremonial Day Uniform

- 0945 Leave Sheraton Park Tower Hotel.
- 1000 Arrive Ministry of Defence, Horseguards Avenue Entrance.
Met by the Secretary of State for Defence,
The Right Honourable Michael Heseltine, MP.
Received by a Guard of Honour found by the
- 1010 Private talks with the Secretary of State for Defence.
- 1025 Plenary discussions in the office of the
Secretary of State for Defence.
- 1145 Talks with the Minister of State for Defence Procurement,
Mr Geoffrey Pattie, MP.
- 1225 Leave Ministry of Defence.
- 1230 Arrive 1 Carlton Gardens SW 1.
- 1230 Luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government.
for
1245 Host: The Secretary of State for Defence,
The Right Honourable Michael Heseltine, MP.
- 1400 Leave 1 Carlton Gardens.
- 1415 Arrive Sheraton Park Tower Hotel.
- 1615 Leave Sheraton Park Tower Hotel.
- [1630 (To be
rescheduled)] Call on The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth
Affairs, The Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Howe, GC, MP.
- 1715 Leave the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.]
- 1730 Arrive the Sheraton Park Tower Hotel.

1915 Depart Sheraton Park Tower Hotel.

1940 Arrive ? Theatre.

22 ? Depart ? Theatre.

22 ? Arrive ? Restaurant.

REF ID: A66308 1104

Dress: Non-Ceremonial Day Uniform

0750 Leave Sheraton Park Tower Hotel.

0835 Arrive Royal Air Force Station, Northolt.

0840 Depart by

0950 Arrive Leeds and Bradford Airport.
Met by Mr D. Cooke, Director Royal Ordnance Factory Leeds.

0955 Depart by car.

1030 Arrive Royal Ordnance Factory, Leeds.

1245 Luncheon given by Royal Ordnance Factory, Leeds.
for
1300 Host:

1530 Leave Royal Ordnance Factory, Leeds by car.

1605 Arrive Leeds and Bradford Airport.

1610 Depart by

1710 Arrive Royal Air Force Station Northolt.

1725 Leave by car.

1810 Arrive Sheraton Park Tower Hotel.

1930 Leave Sheraton Park Tower Hotel.

Arrive

11. 11. 1954

Event: Day-Operational Day Uniform

0800

Leave Sheraton Park Tower Hotel.

1030

Arrive Headquarters Strike Command, High Wycombe.

Met by

1230

Luncheon given by the Commander-in-Chief, Strike Command.

for

Host:

1245

1345

Leave Headquarters Strike Command, High Wycombe.

1515

Arrive Sheraton Park Tower Hotel.

Calls by representatives from industry.

THURSDAY 8 MARCH 1964

Dress: Non-Ceremonial Day Uniform

0900

Leave Sheraton Park Tower Hotel.

1030

Arrive Military Vehicles Engineering Establishment.

Met by

1230

Luncheon given by the Military Vehicles Engineering Establishment.

Host:

1345

Leave Military Vehicles Engineering Establishment.

1500

Arrive Sheraton Park Tower Hotel.

11/11/54 9 MARCH 1954

Leave Sheraton Park Tower Hotel.

Arrive London Heathrow Airport Hounslow Suite.

Board Flight departing at
for

The Minister

will bid farewell.

EGYPT: Relations

Nov 80

16 JAN 91





10 DOWNING STREET

For the file

- ① MoD rang me and asked if PM. had see Egyptian Deyssee L who is also Dep. PM on 7 arch 5. Re day Mitterand is coming.
- ② I asked him to send letter. see ASC's note of 4/1.

CK

14/2.

CR

A.S.C.

Egyptian
relats.



Jay of
Muntobson
N.T.E. What
do you think?
CR.

10 DOWNING STREET

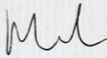
Wendy Anderton 'phoned.

Field Marshall ~~Adu~~ Ghazala

the Egyptian Minister of
Defence and (possibly) the
Deputy PM will be visiting
the UK on 20 February.

MOD would like a 1/2 hour
slot and will be writing
within the next couple of
days to that effect.

No reply.

I should like to see 
the MOD letter first. 3/1.

A.S.C. 4/1.