

APC



A BF

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 September 1984

Dear Janid,

Sri Lanka: Military and Police Training

Your letter of 20 August asked for a draft Private Secretary reply to a letter to the Prime Minister from Mr Trevaskis of Falconstar Ltd. I enclose a reply.

The Sri Lankan security forces have proved woefully inadequate in dealing with Tamil terrorist activities. In an effort to make good these deficiencies, the Sri Lankan Government have engaged another British company, KMS Ltd, to provide training in counter-terrorist techniques. The Sri Lankans have also sought Israeli advice on counter-insurgency matters. In addition, they have asked us to provide a variety of police training courses in the UK. We are currently considering how we might assist with this request.

The presence of KMS employees, including some ex-SAS personnel, in Sri Lanka has aroused controversy in India, and the Indian Government have expressed concern to us about the firm's involvement. We have made it clear that this is a purely commercial matter and that HMG are not involved. Although we have little knowledge of Falconstar Ltd's capabilities in counter-insurgency or police training, we would have no objection to their seeking to obtain business in Sri Lanka. But that is a matter for them to pursue. If the firm succeed in their bid to secure a consultancy it is important for us to be able to maintain that any contract between Falconstar Ltd and the Sri Lankan Government is a purely commercial arrangement with which HMG has no connexion. The draft reply to Mr Trevaskis is therefore non-committal.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

David Barclay Esq  
10 Downing Street



Sam Williams

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 1AA

Michael  
5/7/97





DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM

CD?

PS/No 10

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

TO:

J H K Trevaskis Esq  
Falconstar Ltd  
40 Catherine Place  
LONDON SW1E 6HL

Your Reference

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:

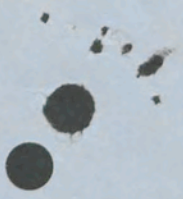
Thank you for your letter of 16 August to the Prime Minister.

As you will know, the Prime Minister has, with great reluctance had to postpone her visit to Sri Lanka. But it was good of you to let us know of your interest in Sri Lanka. Mrs Thatcher has asked me to say that she was most grateful for your kind wishes.

CD

Enclosures—flag(s).....





12 SEP 1984  
12 11  
12 11  
12 11  
12 11  
12 11  
12 11  
12 11  
12 11  
12 11

12 SEP 1984





10 DOWNING STREET

file to  
also

*From the Private Secretary*

6 September 1984

Thank you for your letter of 16 August to the Prime Minister.

As you will know, the Prime Minister has, with great reluctance, had to postpone her visit to Sri Lanka. But it was good of you to let us know of your interest in Sri Lanka. Mrs. Thatcher has asked me to say that she was most grateful for your kind wishes.

CHARLES POWELL

J. H. K. Trevaskis, Esq.

CM





JL vsc

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

20 August 1984

Sri Lanka: Military & Police Training

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister dated 16 August from Mr. Jeremy Trevaskis, a Director of Falconstar Limited.

BF | In view of the Prime Minister's forthcoming visit, I should be grateful for urgent advice on the contents of Mr. Trevaskis' letter, and for a draft reply for Private Secretary signature.

I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

(David Barclay)

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

da





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

20 August 1984

I am writing in the Prime Minister's absence overseas to acknowledge your letter of 16 August. I will place this before the Prime Minister and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

(David Barclay)

Jeremy Trevaskis, Esq.



# FALCONSTAR LIMITED

40 CATHERINE PLACE, LONDON SW1E 6HL

Telephone: 01-828 7425

Telex: 8951203 DAF G

16 August 1984

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

*Dear Prime Minister,*

You may remember that I wrote to you on 30 September 1983 to tell you about my organisation which provides military and police training teams to friendly countries worldwide. Since then, Peter Le Marchand and I have been joined on the board by two more directors. One is Sir Kennedy Trevaskis, KCMG, OBE, my father, whose last appointment was Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Aden, and whose diplomatic background will be known to you.

The other is Major General Corran Purdon, CBE, MC, CPM, a former Commander, Sultan's Armed Forces, GOC Near East Land Forces, and, after retiring from the Army, Deputy Commissioner the Royal Hong Kong Police Force. He is well known to Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, and to Lord MacLehose.

I write, not only to wish you every success in your forthcoming visit to Sri Lanka, but to tell you in confidence that we have been approached by certain senior personalities in Sri Lanka with a view to possibly providing consultancy at a high level, in counter insurgency and, perhaps, the provision of personnel to carry out certain training commitments which are not already catered for by the small K.M.S. team with the Sri Lankan Police, and by the Israelis on the Intelligence side. I felt you would wish to be apprised in advance of your visit as to the possibility of our being involved, and to inform you that Peter Le Marchand returned from Sri Lanka only last week, from an exploratory visit during which he had a meeting with the Minister of National Security, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, at which he was given to understand that we may be called upon to visit Sri Lanka again in a month or so.

I would like you to know that we are ready to provide high calibre advisers and instructors from the rank of Major General and Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police downwards.

/..



The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP - 2 -

16 August 1984

With my warmest good wishes for your visit to Sri Lanka next month, and our great admiration for your leadership of this country.

*Yours Sincerely*

*Jeremy Trevaskis*

JEREMY TREVASKIS





lo

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

5 October, 1983.

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter to her of 30 September with with you kindly sent her a copy of your brochure.

Mrs. Thatcher was most interested to read about Falconstar's services, and sends her best wishes for continued success.

*[Handwritten signature]* 13

J.H.K. Trevaskis, Esq.

*da*



# FALCONSTAR LIMITED

40 CATHERINE PLACE, LONDON SW1E 6HL

Telephone: 01-828 7425

Telex: 8951203 DAF G

30 September 1983

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP  
10 Downing Street  
London, SW1

*GR*  
*friendly with please*

Dear Prime Minister,

I am enclosing the brochure of a successful company which was started over three years ago with the aim of providing a politically very important service from Britain to friendly foreign and Commonwealth countries.

British military and police training is much respected throughout the free world, and many more requests are received by the FCO and MoD for British Training Teams than our Armed Forces have the manpower to supply. Falconstar provides teams comprising officers and NCOs who have recently left military service, but who are keen to continue military life abroad. They operate under precisely the same codes of conduct and discipline as if they were still serving, and all work undertaken by the company is discussed freely with the FCO to ensure that Britain's interests are not in any way jeopardised. No operational work whatever is contemplated.

After 10 years commissioned service myself in the Scots Guards and SAS, I am well aware of the enormously good influence of British military training teams abroad, and what excellent ambassadors they make. Falconstar provides a service which it is not always possible for the Government to provide for a number of reasons. I must emphasise that there is no conflict of interest with official British Army Training Teams, and we do not see ourselves as being in competition with them. However, there are times when it is either not appropriate or not possible for a BATT to be sent to a foreign country; on these occasions, a Falconstar team can achieve much the same results both in terms of practical training and of international goodwill.

We are in the process now of completing a major contract with the Government of Uganda, where we have trained over 1,500 Special Force constables in two years. This has made a large contribution to internal security and to foreign investors' confidence in Uganda. We maintain close unofficial links with the Commonwealth Training Team which is working with the Uganda Army.

/...

Directors: J.H.K. Trevaskis R.P.G. Le Marchand

Registered in England: 1493049 Registered Office: 40 Catherine Place, London SW1E 6HL

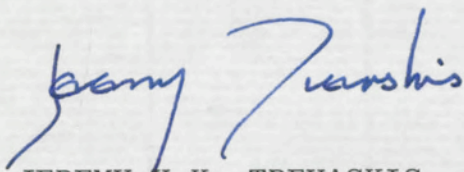


The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP

27 September 1983

I wish you to be informed of the service that we provide because of your support for the Armed Forces and the work which they do. We see much potential in extending Britain's influence in the world by sending training teams abroad under an organisation such as Falconstar which is prepared to work within Government guidelines, and hope that we can be of service to Her Majesty's Government.

Yours sincerely,



JEREMY H.K. TREVASKIS

Enclosure