

CAN 37/03

FDW G 065/03

OO KUALA LUMPUR

OO CANBERRA

GRS 460  
CONFIDENTIAL

FM UKDEL MELBOURNE 030140Z OCT 81  
TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1 OF 3 OCTOBER 1981  
INFO IMMEDIATE KUALA LUMPUR, CANBERRA (FOR WHITMORE) AND FCO  
PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR.

FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY/LORD CARRINGTON TO PS/MR NOTT

MALAYSIAN DISCRIMINATION AGAINST BRITAIN.

GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE, DATED 3 OCTOBER,  
FROM THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY TO THE DEFENCE SECRETARY.

BEGINS

2. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF MY TALK YESTERDAY WITH  
GHAZALI SHAFIE, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN FULL  
BRIEFING ON MAHATHIR'S SURPRISING MOVES AGAINST US. I GATHER THAT  
YOU WILL BE SEEING MAHATHIR ON MONDAY. THIS IS FORTUNATE, AS WE MUST  
CLEARLY GET THE MEASURE OF HIM AS SOON AS WE CAN. GHAZALI GAVE ME  
NO INKLING THAT THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WAS ABOUT TO TAKE FORMAL  
STEPS TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST US: BUT HE STRESSED THAT MAHATHIR  
WAS A VERY PRICKLY CUSTOMER, WHO DID NOT SHARE GHAZALI'S  
INSTINCTIVELY WARM FEELINGS TOWARDS THE UK. (THIS COMES OUT  
STRONGLY FROM THE TELEGRAM SENT BY OUR ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER  
IN KUALA LUMPUR ON 2 OCTOBER).

*(over) Whitmore.*

*he*  
*Jo*



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "M. Nott", located to the right of the main text.



3. GHAZALI DID NOT KNOW PRECISELY WHAT HAD CAUSED MAHATHIR TO TAKE UNBRAGE. BUT HE THOUGHT THAT, IN HIS PREVIOUS MINISTERIAL OFFICES (WAS HE MINISTER FOR TRADE?), WE MIGHT HAVE TRODDEN ON MAHATHIR'S CORNS BY NOT GIVING HIM PROPER MINISTERIAL ATTENTION, OR PERHAPS BY DEALING OVER HIS HEAD WITH PREVIOUS MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTERS ON MATTERS IN MAHATHIR'S PROVINCE.

4. I SHALL NOT BE SEEING GHAZALI AGAIN BEFORE YOUR MEETING WITH HIS PRIME MINISTER, THOUGH I SHALL CERTAINLY HAVE A FURTHER CHAT WITH HIM ON 5 OR 6 OCTOBER (NO DOUBT ENLIGHTENED BY THE WAY THINGS HAVE GONE BETWEEN YOU AND MAHATHIR). IN THE MEANTIME, NEEDLESS TO SAY THAT, AS OUR REAL OR IMAGINED SLIGHT TO MAHATHIR COULD DO CONSIDERABLE HARM TO BOTH OUR COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL INTERESTS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA,

*Passage deleted and closed under FOI Exemption  
(b)(7)(D) Wayland. 17 April 2014*

5. SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE OF OUR MAN ON THE SPOT YOU MIGHT WISH TO MENTION TO MAHATHIR THAT WE ARE TAKING THE EC/ASEAN MEETING IN LONDON ON 13/14 OCTOBER VERY SERIOUSLY, AND THAT I AM FLYING HOME DIRECTLY FROM CHGM TO PREPARE FOR IT (I SHALL BE CHAIRING THE MEETING). YOU COULD ALSO REMIND HIM THAT I HAVE PLANS TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO MALAYSIA IN FEBRUARY OF NEXT YEAR.

6. WITH MEMORIES OF THE UNFORTUNATE ROW WITH INDONESIA WHICH YOU MANAGED TO RESOLVE AS TRADE SECRETARY, I HOPE THAT WE CAN NIP THIS ONE IN THE BUD. I HAVE ALREADY SOUGHT GHAZALI'S ADVICE ON ANY GESTURES THAT WE MIGHT MAKE TO SOOTHE MAHATHIR. YOU MAY HAVE FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THIS YOURSELF.

ENDS

FCO PASS TO ALL

CARRINGTON

NNNN





LCK 13/2

*MS*

Prime Minister.

We touched on this last night, and you were considering whether to have a word with the Malaysian Foreign Minister during the week-end.

*AKL*

*3x.*

LDX NR 709

FDW G094/02

OO KUALA LUMPUR

OO CANBERRA

OO SINGAPORE

GRS 400

CONFIDENTIAL

FM UKDEL MELBOURNE 021105Z OCT 81

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 46 OF 2 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE KUALA LUMPUR, CANBERRA (FOR PS TO PM) SINGAPORE, HONG KONG.



FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY.

CHGM: MEETING WITH MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. LORD CARRINGTON HAD A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH GHAZALI SHAFIE ON 2 OCTOBER. NO ONE ELSE WAS PRESENT.
2. GHAZALA SAID THAT ASEAN'S PRESENT STRATEGY WAS TO BRING ABOUT A COALITION BETWEEN THE FORCES OF POL POT, SON SANN AND S IHANOUK: THEN TO BUILD UP SAN SANN'S FORCES, AND TO BOOST HIS PERSONAL POSITION WITHIN THE COALITION: THEREBY MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO DITCH POL POT: AND FINALLY, TO JOIN UP WITH HENG SAMRIN. GHAZALI SAID THAT HENG SANRIN WAS KEEN TO BE RID OF THE VIETNAMESE, AND HAD THEREFORE AGREED TO THIS PLAN. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE WANTED TO BE SHOT OF THE RUSSIANS, AND TO BRING ABOUT A NEW COMMUNIST STRUCTURE IN INDO-CHINA, EMBRACING THREE STATES UNDER ONE PARTY. GHAZALI THOUGHT THAT THE PRC WOULD ACCEPT THIS, IF IT HAD THE EFFECT OF REMOVING SOVIET INFLUENCE FROM INDO-CHINA.
3. LORD CARRINGTON ENQUIRED ABOUT THE NEW MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE UNITED KINGDOM. GHAZALI DID NOT THINK THAT DR MAHATHIR HAD ANY POLITICAL QUARREL WITH THE UK, BUT THOUGHT THAT MAHATHIR HAD BEEN PERSONALLY OFFENDED ON SOME PAST OCCASION. MAHATHIR WAS VERY TOUCHY. LORD CARRINGTON ASKED HOW WE MIGHT PUT MATTERS RIGHT. GHAZALI PROMISED TO THINK ABOUT THIS, AND TO GIVE ADVICE WHEN HE CAME TO LONDON SHORTLY FOR THE EC/ASEAN MEETING.
4. THIS CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE BEFORE WE RECEIVED KUALA LUMPUR TELNO 217 (NOW COPIED TO CANBERRA FOR THE PS TO PM). IF GHAZALI WAS AWARE OF THE ACTION ORDERED BY MATHATHIR, THIS WAS NOT REFLECTED IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE S OF S. HIS GENERAL LINE WAS THAT, WHILE MAHATHIR WAS PERSONALLY ANNOYED WITH US, IT WOULD BE WRONG TO PORTRAY RELATIONS AS HAVING DETERIORATED IN GENERAL. THE SECRETARY OF STATE WILL CLEARLY WISH TO TALK FURTHER TO GHAZALI IN THE LIGHT OF TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE ANY ADVICE FROM THE DEPT BY 042300Z.

FCO PSE PASS TO ALL

CARRINGTON

NNNN