

SUBJECT

(44)

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 177^c/82

TOP COPY

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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DESKBY 140200Z
FM FCO 131720Z SEP 82
TO IMMEDIATE KUALA LUMPUR
TELEGRAM NUMBER 309 OF 13 SEPTEMBER.

YOUR TELNO 358: ⁽³⁹⁾ VISIT OF DR MAHATHIR

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO DR MAHATHIR'S OFFICE.

'I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WILL BE PAYING A PRIVATE VISIT TO LONDON EARLY IN OCTOBER ON YOUR WAY HOME FROM THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

I KNOW THAT YOU WILL HAVE MANY THINGS TO DO WHILE YOU ARE HERE BUT IF IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT TO YOU I SHOULD VERY MUCH WELCOME THE CHANCE TO SEE YOU. I HAVE A DIFFICULTY IN THAT, FOLLOWING A LONG VISIT TO THE FAR EAST FROM 16 TO 29 SEPTEMBER, I HAVE TO DEVOTE THE WEEKEND OF 2/3 OCTOBER TO PREPARATION FOR THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE. WOULD THERE BE ANY CHANCE OF YOUR ADVANCING YOUR ARRIVAL IN LONDON IN ORDER TO LUNCH WITH ME AT NO. 10 DOWNING STREET ON FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER? I SHOULD BE DELIGHTED IF YOU COULD MANAGE THAT.'

PYM

DIST:
STANDARD
S E A D

COPIES TO:
P S/NO.10 DOWNING ST.
MR DUNNING, OT2/2, D O T.

<i>File 353/1</i>
15 SEP 82
<i>[Signature]</i>

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C O N F I D E N T I A L



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 September 1982

VISIT TO LONDON BY PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

Thank you for your letter of 8 September. I explained to you on Friday that the Prime Minister has to devote the weekend of 2/3 October to preparation for the Conservative Party Conference. Mrs. Thatcher would, however, be glad to give Dr. Mahathir lunch on Friday, 1 October, if he can advance his arrival sufficiently.

I enclose a message to Dr. Mahathir which has been approved by the Prime Minister. I should be grateful if you would arrange for its despatch.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

①



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

You agreed to send a message to the Malaysian Prime Minister. Are you content with the attached draft? *If so, we will telegraph the message.*

A. J. C.

Yes
no

10 September 1982

DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO DR. MAHATHIR

I understand that you will be paying a private visit to London early in October on your way home from the United Nations General Assembly.

I know that you will have many things to do while you are here but if it would be convenient to you I should very much welcome the chance to see you. I have a difficulty in that, following a long visit to the Far East from 16 to 29 September, I have to devote the weekend of 2/3 October to preparation for the Conservative Party Conference. Would there be any chance of your advancing your arrival in London in order to lunch with me at No. 10 Downing Street on Friday 1 October? I should be delighted if you could manage that.

E.R.

PRIME MINISTER

Visit by Malaysian Prime Minister

He is in London from 1-3 October.

You cannot see him on Saturday, 2 October which you wish to devote to the Party speech (at Chequers).

The only possibility is to offer a meeting or a lunch on Friday, 1 October. You may well be tired after your visit to the Far East and could have had a difficult day on Thursday. Your mind will be on the Party Conference. On the other hand, it is perfectly true, as the attached letter suggests, that the failure to pay normal courtesies to Malaysian Ministers in the past is one of the grudges they hold against us. You are aware of the difficulties confronting British firms.

The way out of this might be to send a message to Dr. Mahathir explaining your diary difficulties and asking him whether he could advance his arrival in order to have lunch with you on Friday, 1 October. If he cannot do so, so much the better. Would you like to try this?

Attend mt

A.J.C.

9 September 1982

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 September 1982

Dear John,

Visit by Malaysian Prime Minister

The Malaysian High Commission have told us informally that Dr Mahathir is to make a stopover in London from 1 - 3 October on his return to Malaysia from the United Nations General Assembly in New York. He is expected to arrive on 1 October at 2140 and to leave on 3 October at 1830.

The High Commission believe that their Prime Minister will wish to inspect properties in London recently bought by the Malaysian Government and will not ask for any official appointments to be made. However, we would not wish Dr Mahathir to leave the UK with the impression that we do not consider a visit by him, even on a private basis, worthy of notice. Dr Mahathir has on several occasions severely criticised past British Governments for not giving Malaysian Ministers the high level of attention British Ministers enjoy when visiting Malaysia.

Mr Pym strongly recommends therefore that the Prime Minister should send Dr Mahathir a personal message of welcome and, if her diary permits, invite Dr Mahathir to meet her while he is in London. He believes that this is an opportunity we cannot afford to miss. Saturday 2 October would seem to be the only feasible date for such a meeting. The draft has been couched in terms of an invitation to lunch. But if that is not convenient (and Mr Pym is aware of the likely difficulty, with the Party Conference in the following week), the offer of a meeting on its own would be perfectly acceptable. I enclose a draft message, which might be delivered to the Malaysian Government by our High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur.

/We believe

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We believe that the offer of a meeting is likely to be well received by Dr Mahathir even if he declines on the grounds of wishing to keep his visit wholly private. If he accepts, the meeting may offer the best chance of giving an early boost to the process of reconciliation, which is otherwise unlikely to progress very fast in the near future. The Directive discriminating against the purchase of British goods by the Malaysian public sector remains in force.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J E Holmes', with a horizontal line under the name.

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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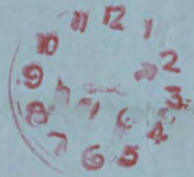
DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO DR MAHATHIR

I understand that you will be paying a private visit to London early in October on your way home from the United Nations General Assembly.

I know that you will have many things to do while you are here but if it would be convenient to you I should very much welcome the chance to see you. I shall quite understand, of course, if you have to devote all your attention to the commitments you already have, but if by any chance you were free for an informal lunch on Saturday 2 October, I should be happy to welcome you to 10 Downing Street.

I have a
By difficulty is
that, following
a long visit to the
Far East from 16 to
29 September, I
have to devote the
weekend of 2/3
October to preparation
for our next conference
the Conservative
Party Conference.
Would there be any
chance of your
advancing your
arrival - which
is what I would
like to see
will see it do.
10 Downing Street
on Friday 10 Oct. I
should be delighted if
you could manage that.

58 SEP 1982



[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]