

C. OPS. MASTERS
PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 210A/84

178

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DESKBY 121000Z

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TO IMMEDIATE KUWAIT

TELEGRAM NUMBER 283 OF 12 DEC

INFO PRIORITY TEHRAN, WASHINGTON

KUWAITI AIRCRAFT HIJACKING: YOUR TELNO 455

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
TO THE CROWN PRINCE SHAIKH SA'AD AL ABDULLAH, AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

BEGINS. I FOLLOWED WITH ADMIRATION THE KUWAITI GOVERNMENT'S
HANDLING OF THE HIJACKING OF THE KUWAITI AIRLINER. I KNOW THAT
THIS HAS BEEN AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TIME FOR YOU. IT IS VITAL
THAT TERRORIST OUTRAGES OF THIS KIND SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO
SUCCEED. I THEREFORE APPLAUD YOUR GOVERNMENT'S RESOLUTE STAND IN
REJECTING THE TERRORISTS' DEMANDS. THE FIRMNES YOU HAVE SHOWN
CAN ONLY HELP TO MAKE AIR TRAVEL SAFER IN THE FUTURE. ENDS.

HOWE

5872 - DC 051/30		
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12 DEC 1984		
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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 December 1984

Kuwaiti Aircraft Hijacking

Thank you for your letter of 11 December enclosing a draft message from the Prime Minister to the Amir of Kuwait.

~~SECRET~~

The Prime Minister is content with the message. I should be grateful if it could be despatched.

(C.D. Powell)

P.F. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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cc/c



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 December 1984

Dear Charles,

Kuwaiti Aircraft Hijacking

As requested when we spoke this morning, I enclose a draft message from the Prime Minister to the Head of Government in Kuwait.

We had considered recommending that the Prime Minister should send such a message yesterday, but concluded that although the hostages had then been released, they were still in Teheran and potentially at risk. They are due to fly out today, and that problem therefore falls away.

The message is not unduly fulsome as the Kuwaitis do not emerge entirely blameless from the incident. Serious questions have been raised about their security arrangements and they were consistently uncooperative with us, refusing to speak to our Ambassador in Kuwait for most of the crisis. The important issue, however, is that the principle of not submitting to terrorists' demands has been upheld.

It is relevant that all the moderate Arab states now seem to be taking the line that there was collusion between the Iranian authorities and the hijackers throughout the exercise. Our more qualified position is set out in para 4 of JIC(84)(1A)53 of 10 December; in brief, that though there may have been an element of collusion in the storming of the aircraft on 9 December, we are not convinced that the Iranian authorities, taken as a whole, colluded in the earlier stages of this affair.

Yours,
Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
CONFIDENTIAL	IMMEDIATE

CLASS
CAVEATS
DESKBY
FM FCO
PRE/ADD
TEL NO

1 ZCZC
2 GRS
3 CONFIDENTIAL
4
5
6 FM FCO
7 TO IMMEDIATE KUWAIT
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER
9 RFI PRIORITY TEHRAN, WASHINGTON
10 KUWAITI AIRCRAFT HIJACKING: YOUR TELNO 455
11 1. Please deliver the following message from the Prime Minister
12 to the Crown Prince Shaikh Sa'ad al Abdullah, as soon as
13 possible.
14 BEGINS. I followed with admiration the Kuwaiti Government's
15 handling of the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner. I know that
16 this has been an extremely difficult time for you. It is vital
17 that the terrorist outrages of this kind should never be allowed to
18 succeed. I therefore applaud your Government's resolute stand in
19 rejecting the terrorists' demands. The firmness you have shown
20 can only help to make air travel safer in the future. ENDS.
21
22 HOWE
23 NNNN
24
25

Agreed mb

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NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
File number	Dept Private Office	Distribution INT. TERRORISM
Drafted by (Block capitals) P F RICKETTS		
Telephone number 233-4641		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	