

PREM 19/2572

SECRET

(D)

MT

confidential filing.

Internal Situation in the PDRY.

YEMEN.

April 1980.

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
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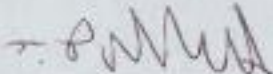
11/13/82  
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TO BE RETAINED AS TOP ENCLOSURE

**Cabinet / Cabinet Committee Documents**

Reference	Date
CC(86) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Item 2	23/01/1986
CC(86) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Item 3	16/01/1986
JIC(82)(N)89	09/09/1982

The documents listed above, which were enclosed on this file, have been removed and destroyed. Such documents are the responsibility of the Cabinet Office. When released they are available in the appropriate **CAB (CABINET OFFICE) CLASSES**

Signed 

Date 15.3.16

**PREM Records Team**

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T159a/88



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

File  
a.Fo.

SUB DELI  
CC MASTER  
OPS

klc

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 October 1988

Dear Prime Minister,

I was very sorry to hear of your illness, and hope that your operation has been a complete success. I send you my best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

I also take the opportunity to wish you and the people of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen my good wishes on the occasion of your National Day.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Dr. Yaseen Saeed Numan

dn



File

80

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

18 October 1988

The Prime Minister has agreed to send a message to the PDRY Prime Minister in hospital. I enclose her letter and should be grateful if it could be delivered.

(C. D. POWELL)

R. N. Peirce, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

ho



10 DOWNING STREET

ll

Prime Minister.

You would not normally write with much enthusiasm to the Prime Minister of the P.D.R.Y. But he's in hospital here, & a short note would not come amiss.

Agree to sign?

"Dear Prime Minister"

or

"Your Excellency" C.D.D. '7/12



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 October 1988

*Dear Charles*

PDRY Prime Minister

The Prime Minister of South Yemen, Dr Yeseen Saeed Numan, was admitted to Charing Cross Hospital on Sunday, 9 October to undergo an operation on an enlarged aorta. He is expected to be in London for two to three weeks. His visit to the UK is entirely private and the PDRY Embassy have not requested any official contacts for him during his stay. However, we recommend that the Prime Minister send a short letter wishing him a speedy recovery. I enclose a draft.

Apart from considerations of natural courtesy, there are good reasons for such action at this time. There are increasing signs that the PDRY wishes to improve its relations with Western countries. Although in theory a Marxist country, the PDRY sits uncomfortably under Soviet influence. Soviet indications that the PDRY can expect less financial support in the coming years as perestroika takes hold have added to the feeling in PDRY that she should widen her options and explore what might come out of better relations with the West. We should exploit this malaise with the Soviet Union as part of our general objective to curb Soviet influence in the Middle East, but without leading the PDRY to believe that she can yet expect any more aid from us (our current programme is about £300,000 a year, mainly English language training).

Another UK interest in PDRY is the prospect of greater UK participation in the development of its nascent oil industry. BP and London and Scottish Marine Oil Limited have together a 50 per cent interest in an oil exploration scheme on the coast near Aden. There is at present little other UK involvement. But there are indications of considerable potential in the PDRY's petrocarbon deposits, and British commercial interest may well develop.

We get few opportunities to establish contacts with the PDRY leadership. The most recent contact was when the PDRY Foreign Minister called on Mr Waldegrave on 19 September, during a brief private stay in London. It was a friendly though insubstantial meeting. Before that, the last senior Ministerial contact was in 1982 when the PDRY Foreign Minister called on the Foreign Secretary.

/If the

CONFIDENTIAL



If the Prime Minister is content to write as we suggest, we judge that Dr Numan, in his bed-ridden condition, is unlikely to respond by requesting a meeting; nor would we recommend it if by chance he did. But a message would, we think, be worthwhile. PDRY's national day was, incidentally, on 14 October.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R N Peirce', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

(R N Peirce)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL



DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Copies to:

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

Dr Yaseen Saeed Numan,

Prime Minister of the People's

Democratic Republic of Yemen

SUBJECT:

*KKIAFW*

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT .....

I was very sorry to hear of your illness, and hope that your operation has been a complete success. *Isnad you*

*[Redacted]* my best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

*[Redacted]* I also take the opportunity to wish you and the people of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen my good wishes on the occasion of your National Day.

*CS*

Enclosures flag(s) .....

PO5AAD

Subject cc Master  
ops

T Message 4/12/11/86

UNCLASSIFIED

9803 - 1

GEMIAN 9803  
UNCLASSIFIED  
DD 231400Z SANAA  
FM POOLN TO SANAA  
231100Z JAN  
GRS 170

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T13A/86

UNCLASSIFIED  
FM FCC  
TO DESKBY 231400Z SANA'A  
TELNO 37  
OF 231100Z JANUARY 86

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI, MR HASSAN GOULED APTIDON:

BEGINS

DEAR PRESIDENT (HASSAN GOULED APTIDON),

I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY HEARTFELT THANKS FOR THE WAY IN WHICH YOU AND THE AUTHORITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI HAVE RESPONDED SO QUICKLY AND HAVE GIVEN SUCH UNSTINTING ASSISTANCE TO HER MAJESTY'S YACHT BRITANNIA AND TO OUR BRITISH CONSULAR OFFICIALS, IN THE EVACUATION OF BRITISH RESIDENTS AND BRITISH EMBASSY PERSONNEL FROM ADEN DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS.

WITHOUT THE FACILITIES WHICH DJIBOUTI CAME FORWARD TO PROVIDE SO PROMPTLY, THE TASK OF GETTING OUR PEOPLE AWAY SO SWIFTLY TO A SAFE HAVEN WOULD WITHOUT DOUBT HAVE BEEN MADE VERY MUCH HARDER. YOUR CONTINUING CO-OPERATION IN THIS HUMANITARIAN EFFORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED

YOURS SINCERELY,  
MARGARET THATCHER  
ENDS.

2. SIGNED ORIGINAL FOLLOWS BY BAG.

HOWE

ATTEMPTED COUP IN ADEN  
LIMITED

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SCD  
DEFENCE D  
PUSD  
NEWS D  
INFO D  
CONSULAR D  
POD  
PSD  
PLANNING STAFF  
SECURITY D  
SOVIET D  
RESEARCH D  
EAD

PS  
PS/MR RENTON  
PS/MR EGGAR  
PS/PUS  
MR FERGUSSON  
SIR D MIERS  
CHIEF CLERK  
MR BARRINGTON  
MR LONG  
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

COPIES TO :

SEC(O)(C) MOD  
DI ROW 38 MOD  
OT4, DTI  
ASSESSMENTS STAFF, CABINET OFFICE  
MNED, ODA  
PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

23 January, 1986.

**ADEN CRISIS:  
MESSAGE OF THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT OF DJIBOUTI**

BC | This is just to place on record that the Prime Minister agreed to the draft message of thanks to the President of Djibouti enclosed with your letter of 22 January.

(C.D. Powell)

R.N. Culshaw, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

ATTEMPTED COUP IN ADEN

ADVANCE COPIES 2

PS  
PS/MR MENTON  
PS/MR EGGAR  
PS/PUS  
MR FERGUSSON  
~~MR FERGUSSON~~ *S. 3. 11. 1966*  
CHIEF CLERK  
MR BARRINGTON  
MR LONG

~~BUCKINGHAM PALACE~~  
SEC(O)(C) MOD  
DI ROW 3B MOD  
ASSESSMENT STAFF, CABINET OFFICE  
PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST

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ED/SCD  
ED/DEF D  
ED/PUSD  
ED/NEWS  
ED/CONS D  
ED/PLANNING STAFF  
ED/BOVIET D  
~~POI (WELFARE)~~

RESIDENT CLERK

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TO IMMEDIATE CINCFLEET  
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OF 221724Z JANUARY 86  
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INFO IMMEDIATE FCO LONDON  
INFO IMMEDIATE FOF1  
INFO IMMEDIATE CTU 321.1.5  
INFO IMMEDIATE TU 321.1.5  
INFO IMMEDIATE CTU 321.1.6  
INFO IMMEDIATE CAPT H  
INFO IMMEDIATE HMS HYDRA

241  
IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

SIC 19G/LDQ/UAA  
FROM HMA ADEN

ADEN COUP: POLITICAL COMMENT

1. WE HAD, PRIOR TO 13 JANUARY, BEEN BROODING ON THE GROWING UNPOPULARITY OF THE RUSSIANS IN PDRY, AND EVEN IN MY SHORT TIME IN ADEN I HEARD A NUMBER OF COMMENTS WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUCTED AS COMPLAINTS. NOT LEAST OF THESE WAS THE COMMENT TO ME BY ALI NASR HIMSELF THAT THE ANCIENT HIMYARITE CIVILISATION KNEW MORE ABOUT DAM DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION THAN PRESENT DAY ENGINEERS (IE THE RUSSIANS) DID.
2. THE STRAW THAT BROKE THE CAMELS BACK APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE DECISION IN EARLY JANUARY TO PLACE RUSSIAN ADVISERS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS OF ALL MINISTRIES INCLUDING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. I HEARD THIS FROM WFA OFFICIALS.
3. IT WAS BEING FELT BY ALI NASRS GOVERNMENT THAT THE RUSSIANS NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTED NOTHING TO THE COUNTRYS ECONOMY BUT INDEED BLEED HIS HEAGRE RESOURCES SELFISHLY FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT. THE RUSSIANS AFTER YEARS OF DRILLING HAD FAILED TO COME UP WITH OIL OR EVEN REPORT ON PROGRESS. THE POWER STATION WHICH THE RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN BUILDING FOR 12 YEARS AND WHICH IS STILL A LONG WAY FROM COMPLETION STANDS PROMINENTLY A FEW MILES NORTH OF WHERE WE ARE PRESENTLY ANCHORED AS A MONUMENT FOR ALL TO SEE OF SOVIET INEFFICIENCY.

STANDS PROMINENTLY A FEW MILES NORTH OF WHERE WE ARE PRESENTLY ANCHORED AS A MONUMENT FOR ALL TO SEE OF SOVIET INEFFICIENCY. THE RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF DEPREDATION OF PDRYS DEEP SEA FISH RESOURCES, SENDING THEIR CATCHES BACK TO RUSSIA. IN ADDITION THEY HAVE BEEN CAUSING DAMAGE TO FISHING NETS INSHORE ALL ALONG THE COAST WHICH CANNOT HAVE ENDEARED THEM TO THE COASTAL POPULATIONS. (SOURCE: UNDP) AND EVERYONE LIVING IN ADEM KNEW THAT WHENEVER NEW STOCKS OF FOOD AND PROVISIONS ARRIVED IN THE SHOPS RUSSIAN HOUSEWIVES DESCENDED EN MASSE AND BOUGHT UP ALL THE BEST OF WHAT WAS TO BE HAD.

4. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET A FEEL FOR THE ALTITUDE OF THE NEW GROUPINGS TO THE RUSSIANS. THIS IS NOT OF COURSE EASY WHEN DIOLGUE HAS TO BE DOWN A RIFLE BARREL. CERTAINLY THE APPALLING SIGHT OF THE HEAVILY SHELLLED SOVIET EMBASSY YESTERDAY SUGGESTED THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE UNPOPULAR IN SOME QUARTERS EXCLAM BUT TODAYS PROCEEDINGS CENTRED AROUND NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PORT AUTHORITIES FOR PERMISSION TO TAKE EVACUEES OFF SHIP AT VARIOUS POINTS WERE REVEALING. IN ADDITION TO OURSELVES, RUSSIAN, EAST GERMAN AND FRENCH SHIPS WERE ALL QUEING UP FOR PERMISSION TO LAND BOATS. THIS IS WHERE FORYS POLICY OF COURTESY, PATIENCE AND TACT WITH THE PORT AUTHORITIES PAID OFF WHILST THE RUSSIANS WHO THOUGHT THEY COULD BARGE AND BULLY THEIR WAY THROUGH WERE TOLD TO GET BACK BEHIND THE LINE OR THEY WOULD BE FIRED UPON. EXCLAM

5. THE PORT CAPTAIN REPORTS TO A MILITARY COMMANDER WHOSE POLITICAL LOYALTIES ARE NOT CLEAR, BUT TODAYS EVENTS HAVE SHOWN THAT WHOEVER THEY ARE (A) THEY ARE NOT ALL NASR PEOPLE, AND (B) THEY HAVE FAIRLY FIRM CONTROL OF LITTLE ADEM PORT. ALL NASRS FORCES ARE APPARENTLY SANDWICHED IN THE TAWAH/MAALLA DISTRICT. THIS AFTERNOON CAPTAIN RHONGE (LITTLE ADEM PORT) TOLD SCADDAN THAT THERE HAD BEEN SPORADIC FIRING IN LITTLE ADEM THIS MORNING BELIEVED TO BE SMALL POCKETS OF ALL NASR SUPPORTERS BEING WIPED UP BY ALL ANYAR (SIC) MEN.

BT

E/R + OGD's

DOLNAR 1083

NNNN

CC PC  
①



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

- 22 January 1986

*Prime Minister  
Agree this  
message?  
Yes not CD 22/1*

*Dear Charles,*

Aden Crisis : Message of thanks to the President of Djibouti

The Foreign Secretary suggests that a message from the Prime Minister would be appropriate, in view of the assistance and facilities which the Djiboutian authorities have so readily offered to the Royal Yacht 'Britannia' and to British consular officials during the evacuation of British residents and Embassy staff during the present crisis.

I enclose a draft. If the Prime Minister is content, this could be sent by telegram to our Ambassador in Sana'a, who is accredited to Djibouti, to forward to President Hassan Gouled Aptidon, with a signed original to follow by bag.

*Yours ever,*  
*R N Culshaw*  
(R N Culshaw)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
No.10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:  
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

His Excellency the President of  
the Republic of Djibouti  
Mr Hassan Gouled Aptidon  
Djibouti

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

OMIT [ ]

Dear President [~~Hassan Gouled Aptidon~~]

I should like to express my heartfelt thanks for the way in which you and the authorities of the Republic of Djibouti have responded so quickly and have given such unstinting assistance to Her Majesty's Yacht Britannia and to our British consular officials, in the evacuation of British residents and British Embassy personnel from Aden during the last few days.

Without the facilities which Djibouti came forward to provide so promptly, the task of getting our people away so swiftly to a safe haven would without doubt have been made very much harder. *Your continuing cooperation in this humanitarian operation is greatly appreciated.*

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher

Enclosures—flag(s).....

# OUT TELEGRAM

	Classification <b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>	Caveat	Precedence <del>211800Z</del> <b>DESKEY 210600Z</b>
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5	TO <del>DESKEY 210600Z</del> SANA'A
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7	OF 201600Z JANUARY 86
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10 1. Please pass the following message from the Prime Minister to  
 11 His Excellency the President of the Republic of Djibouti, Mr  
 12 Hassan Gouled Aptidon:  
 13 BEGINS

14 Dear President [Hassan Gouled Aptidon],  
 15 I should like to express my heartfelt thanks for the way in  
 16 which you and the authorities of the Republic of Djibouti have  
 17 responded so quickly and have given such unstinting assistance to  
 18 Her Majesty's Yacht Britannia and to our British consular  
 19 officials, in the evacuation of British residents and British  
 20 Embassy personnel from Aden during the last few days.

21 Without the facilities which Djibouti came forward to  
 22 provide so promptly, the task of getting our people away so  
 23 swiftly to a safe haven would without doubt have been made very  
 24 much harder. *Your continuing cooperation in this humanitarian effort*  
 25 Yours sincerely, *is greatly appreciated*

/// 26 Margaret Thatcher  
 // 27 ENDS.

28 2. Signed original follows by bag.  
 29



YYYY  
MAIN  
ADDITIONAL  
NNNN

		Catchword: <b>HOWE</b>	
File number	Dept <b>EAD</b>	Drafted by (Block capitals) <b>R G LEWINGTON</b>	Telephone no <b>233 8787</b>
Authorised for despatch by:		Initials	Date/time
For COD use only	Comcen reference	Telegram number	Processed by



# OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification <b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>	Caveat	Precedence <b>DESKBY210600Z</b>
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For distribution order see Page	Catchword:



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Personal Minute

No. 2/86

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN: EVACUATION

May I ask you to pass on to all the members of the Services and the Ministry of Defence staff involved in the evacuation of British subjects and others from Aden my warm thanks and my unstinting admiration for the way in which they have carried out their tasks. I am sure they will have realised from public and parliamentary comment how genuinely their efforts have been appreciated; and how widely esteemed their courage and skill. I have no doubt that the way the operation was conducted has confirmed the respect in which our Forces are held world-wide.

I am minuting separately to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary about the admirable work of our diplomatic and Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff.

*Nargant Dhalib*

22 January 1986

ca



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Personal Minute

No. 1/86

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN: EVACUATION

I should be grateful if you would express my warm thanks and appreciation to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Diplomatic Service staff who have been involved in handling the evacuation of British subjects and others from South Yemen. It has been a most demanding task, but one carried through with dedication and professionalism.

Although it has been a team effort, I am sure that particular thanks are due to the Ambassador and his staff in Aden, to the Honorary Consul in Djibouti and to those who have staffed the Emergency Unit in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It has been a splendid effort.

I am minuting separately to George Younger about the help provided by the Services.

*Nargant Halber*

22 January 1986

ccpc



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

22 January 1985

C.M. 2/11

Dear Richard,

Aden: Royal Yacht Britannia

will request P. 102.

Thank you for your letter of 22 January. The Foreign Secretary agrees that it is right that the Royal Yacht should remain in the Aden area to help with evacuation for the time being. He accepts entirely the presentational drawbacks of a premature withdrawal. He thinks it right however for the situation to be kept under continuous review; in particular it is essential for further thought to be given to how the unique role currently played by Britannia (which your letter cogently describes) can be replaced by other vessels in the area. This will be a key question to answer before any decisions about Britannia can be taken.

I understand that the latest calculations of the journey time allow a little more leeway for Britannia and that the final decision as it affects the Royal Tour of New Zealand need not be taken until 24 or conceivably 25 January. This is helpful, and may enable you to do some of the contingency planning suggested in my previous paragraph.

There are no bilateral political considerations which need to be taken into account over the Royal Visit to New Zealand. As Queen of New Zealand the programme for the Royal Tour there is a matter on which the New Zealand Government will be advising Her Majesty. When I spoke to the Palace I will, however, recommend that they keep in touch with the Governor General's Office in Wellington and with the New Zealand High Commission in London.

I am copying this letter to Charles Powell.

Yours ever,

L. V. Appleyard

(L. V. Appleyard)  
Private Secretary

R. C. Mottram Esq  
Private Secretary  
Ministry of Defence



AMIE AMSTER *AMIE*  
 CDR 221  
 (2)  
 MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
 MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB  
 Telephone 01 ~~XXXXXX~~ 218 2111/3

MO 6/14L

22nd January 1986

Dear Gen,

ADEN: ROYAL YACHT BRITANNIA

As you know, Ministers need to decide later today whether to recommend to Her Majesty The Queen that HM Yacht BRITANNIA should remain close to South Yemen to help in further evacuation operations, or should depart in time to reach New Zealand for the Royal Tour. I understand, that if she is to meet the tour itinerary, BRITANNIA must leave the Aden area by midday on Thursday, unless the Australians or New Zealanders can provide additional tankers on route. The tanker option is not at present proving promising.

Our current assessment is that BRITANNIA provides operational advantages which need to be retained in the area in the present circumstances prevailing in the PDRY. The factors which lie behind this view are:

- BRITANNIA's clear and established acceptability for evacuation operations in the area which other ships have not so far established.
- the particular suitability of BRITANNIA's boats and her capacity to accommodate evacuees.
- the personal rapport established by Admiral Garnier with the local authorities, and separately with the Russians.
- BRITANNIA's unique communications links. (You will have see the advice from our Ambassador about BRITANNIA's role as a vital communications link between the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow and their Embassy in Aden).

In addition to these operational factors, there would of course be important presentational considerations over withdrawing BRITANNIA while there was still a life saving task to be performed. These need to be set against the impact in New Zealand if BRITANNIA is delayed which the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will no doubt wish to assess.

Len Appleyard Esq



We should be grateful to know as soon as possible whether the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary agrees that BRITANNIA should remain in the South Yemen area for the time being, so that Her Majesty The Queen can be consulted later today. I understand that you would propose to put our joint advice to the Palace.

I am copying this letter to Charles Powell (No 10).

*Your ever,*

*Richard Mottram*

(R C MOTTRAM)

## Yemen

3.32 pm

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Sir Geoffrey Howe):** With permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement on the action being taken to secure the safety of British subjects and others in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

On 13 January fighting broke out in Aden. The ferocity of the fighting presented grave risks to the safety of British subjects. In those circumstances, and with the full agreement of Her Majesty the Queen, the royal yacht *Britannia*, which was just leaving the Red sea, was ordered to remain off Aden, and Her Majesty's ships *Newcastle* and *Jupiter*, with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary *Brambleleaf*, were ordered to Aden at full steam in case they were needed for an evacuation.

The situation in the country continued to deteriorate and the level of fighting approached that of a civil war. After close consultation with the Russians and French, both in Aden and in capitals, it was agreed that evacuation was necessary and that, as far as possible, our efforts should be co-ordinated. On 17 January, Soviet merchant vessels lifted off from Aden about 1,000 people, mostly their own nationals. On the same day, the royal yacht took off 450 people, 38 of them British—44 nationalities altogether. Eighty-one French nationals were then transferred to a French ship, and the rest of the evacuees were taken on *Britannia* to Djibouti. The royal yacht then returned to the area and on 19 January lifted off a further 209 people from an area 35 miles from the capital. Eighteen of these were British. These have since arrived in Djibouti, after transferring to HMS *Jupiter*. I am now very pleased to be able to add that *Britannia* has this morning picked up a further 15 British nationals from Little Aden. *Britannia* is maintaining close contact with the vessels of the other nations involved, and remains offshore nearby to take on board further parties of British and other foreign nationals as soon as conditions permit.

So far, no British subjects have been hurt. However, a number of British subjects still remain in south Yemen and we are continuing to work out with other Governments the best ways of evacuating these widely scattered communities.

On the evening of 17 January, when the embassy and residence had been rendered uninhabitable, the ambassador, Mr. Arthur Marshall, decided that he should withdraw all members of the embassy. At the end of the evacuation, he accompanied those on board to Djibouti but then returned on *Britannia* to the area, where he will remain with a member of his staff while the evacuation continues. Another member of his staff is on board HMS *Newcastle*.

The success of the evacuation so far would not have been possible without the help given by a number of Governments, and in particular the Governments of Djibouti, the USSR and France. This has been a remarkable demonstration of what can be achieved through close international co-operation, and I take this opportunity to thank them warmly for their assistance.

I should like to express my gratitude to all the staff of the Ministry of Defence and of the Diplomatic Service, at home and abroad, who have been involved in this operation. I should particularly like to thank our honorary

consul in Djibouti, Mr. Christopher Reddington. I know too that the whole House will join me in praising the calmness and efficiency of our ambassador in Aden, his staff, and their families throughout this difficult period.

Their example has been matched by the fortitude of the British evacuees, who helped to organise the evacuation of hundreds of other nationals and who set an example of disciplined behaviour throughout.

This is the first time that the royal yacht has been involved in a operation of this sort. It has received magnificent support from HM ships *Newcastle* and *Jupiter*, and Royal Fleet Auxiliary *Brambleleaf*, with its Merchant Navy crew. I should like to pay tribute to Rear Admiral John Garnier and all the officers and crew involved for the courage and professionalism that they have shown in carrying out the operation in conditions of danger and difficulty. We can all be proud of them.

**Mr. Donald Anderson (Swansea, East):** We and the British people as a whole can be proud of this magnificent rescue. We rejoice that no British subjects have been injured or killed in spite of the ferocity of the fighting, and we join wholeheartedly with the Foreign Secretary in thanking and paying tribute to those of our people—the military, Admiral Garnier, the diplomatic staff, Mr. Marshall and those with him—who played and are playing such a wonderful part to ensure a successful outcome.

The Foreign Secretary must be aware that the rescue amounts to probably the highest point of British-Soviet co-operation in a practical sphere since the end of the second world war. We hope that the spirit of good will will act as a precedent and will spill over into other fields of our bilateral relationships with the Soviet Union. However, the Soviet Union has learnt the cost, as have other peoples, including ourselves, the Israelis and the Americans, of unilateral intervention in a middle east country.

I ask the Foreign Secretary to report to the House in specific respects. Was the matter of the rescue raised in his discussions yesterday with Mr. Ryzhov, the Soviet Deputy Minister? On the best estimates available to him, how many Britons remain in South Yemen? Can he say how long it is expected that the royal yacht *Britannia* will remain close by and available for action? What is the Foreign Office reading of the position regarding who is in charge in South Yemen? Is it the Foreign Office view that the difference between the factions there is essentially on ideological lines, or is it more based on personal and tribal factors?

Finally, are there any anxieties about the troubles in South Yemen spilling over into neighbouring territories, and possibly posing a threat to security in the region as a whole?

**Sir Geoffrey Howe:** I thank the hon. Gentleman for the kind way in which he has joined me in paying tribute to all those involved in the operation, and add my word of thanks to my hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces for his support throughout.

The hon. Gentleman is right to draw attention to the degree of co-operation between the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union on this occasion. One cannot presume from that high degree of co-operation that everything else will be handled in the same spirit, but I hope that it will not be the last occasion for improving relationships in this way. I was able to raise the matter with Mr. Ryzhov last

sometimes nurses or doctors, but it is important that the right person to be a manager is chosen, whether that person had previously been an administrator, a nurse or a doctor.

**Q7. Mrs. McCurley** asked the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 21 January.

**The Prime Minister:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply that I gave some moments ago.

**Mrs. McCurley:** Will my right hon. Friend consider using her personal influence to urge the Scottish striking teachers to negotiate an end to this damaging strike, which is hurting pupils and lowering the profession in the esteem of the public?

**The Prime Minister:** I agree very much with my hon. Friend. We deplore the further industrial action because of the harm it is doing to the pupils and the great distress that is causing the parents. I join her in hoping that the strike will soon end, and that we shall be able to come to some agreement on terms and conditions of service and shall also be able to get a better system of appraisal so that we can pay better teachers more.

**Mr. Loyden:** Can the Prime Minister say what benefits will accrue to the northern regions of this country, and to Scotland and Northern Ireland, arising out of the

agreement that she signed yesterday with the French President, particularly regarding the regeneration of industry and jobs?

**The Prime Minister:** That would depend upon how many of the orders for equipment and materials went to Scotland, but there will be something like 50,000 man-years' work involved in that project and I hope that it will spread very well over the country.

**Q8. Mr. George Gardiner** asked the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 21 January.

**The Prime Minister:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply that I gave some moments ago.

**Mr. Gardiner:** After giving such a commendable impetus to plans for a tunnel under the English channel, may I ask my right hon. Friend to instil the same sense of urgency into the Department of Transport regarding a far more modest project for a tunnel under the River Thames at Dartford — thereby removing the most atrocious bottleneck on the M25 — especially since private risk capital is available for this venture too?

**The Prime Minister:** I very much take note of what my hon. Friend says. I have occasion to know that area very well. I particularly note that he believes that private sector capital would be available for such a project.





cc: PG  
TF  
Qu.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 January 1986

Dear Charles,

CM

Parliamentary Statement on Aden

I attach the text of a statement which the Foreign Secretary intends to make in Parliament this afternoon on the evacuation from Aden. It has been cleared with the Defence Secretary.

Some further factual updating will be needed, since 'Britannia' has this morning begun picking up further evacuees from Little Aden.

I shall be grateful to receive any comments on this text before Sir Geoffrey Howe leaves for the House at 3.15 p.m.

Yours ever,

(R N Culshaw)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
No.10 Downing Street

cc: Richard Mottram

PS Draft passage for the  
Prime Minister & use at  
Question is being run  
separately

CM

## DRAFT STATEMENT

1. With permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to make a statement.
2. On 13 January fighting broke out in Aden, the capital of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. The ferocity of the fighting presented a grave danger to British subjects. Therefore, with the full agreement of Her Majesty The Queen, the Royal Yacht 'Britannia', which was just leaving the Red Sea, was ordered to remain off Aden, and HM ships 'Newcastle' and 'Jupiter' with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary 'Brambleleaf', were ordered to Aden at full steam in case they were needed for an evacuation.
3. The situation in Aden and elsewhere in the country continued to deteriorate and the level of fighting approached that of a civil war. After close consultation with the Russians and French, both in Aden and in capitals, it was agreed that evacuation was necessary and that as far as possible, our efforts should be coordinated. On 17 January, Soviet merchant vessels lifted off about a thousand people, mostly their own nationals, from Aden. The Royal Yacht took off 450 people, 38 of them British - 44 nationalities altogether. Eighty-one French nationals were then transferred to a French ship, and the rest of the evacuees were taken on Britannia to Djibouti. The Royal Yacht then returned to the area and on 19 January lifted off a further 209 people from an area 35 miles from the capital. Eighteen of these were British. These have since arrived in Djibouti, after transferring to HMS Jupiter; Britannia remains offshore nearby to take on board further parties of foreign nationals as soon as conditions permit. So far no British subjects have been hurt.
4. A number of British subjects still remain in South Yemen and we are continuing to work out with other governments involved the best ways of evacuating these widely scattered communities.



5. On the evening of 17 January, when the Embassy and Residence had been rendered uninhabitable, the Ambassador, Mr Arthur Marshall, decided that he should withdraw all members of the Embassy. At the end of the evacuation, he accompanied those on board to Djibouti but then returned to the area on Britannia, where he will remain with two members of his staff while the evacuation continues.

6. The success of the evacuation so far would not have been possible without the help given by a number of governments, and in particular the governments of Djibouti, the USSR and France. This has been a remarkable demonstration of what can be achieved through close international cooperation, and I take this opportunity to thank them warmly for their assistance.

7. I wish to express my admiration for the fortitude of the British evacuees, who helped to organise the evacuation of hundreds of other nationals and <sup>also</sup> set an example of disciplined behaviour throughout.

8. This is the first time that the Royal Yacht has been involved in an operation of this sort. It received magnificent support from HM ships 'Newcastle' and 'Jupiter' and Royal Fleet Auxiliary 'Brambleleaf', with its merchant navy crew. I should like to pay tribute to Rear Admiral Garnier and all the crew [redacted] for the courage and professionalism they have shown in carrying out the evacuation in conditions of danger and difficulty. [redacted]

9. I should like to express my thanks for the efforts of our Honorary Consul in Djibouti, Mr Christopher Reddington, on behalf of the evacuees. Finally, I know that the House will join me in praising the calmness and efficiency of our Ambassador in Aden, his staff, and their families throughout this difficult period.

TO BE CHECKED  
AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT ON THE EVACUATION FROM THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE YEMEN TO BE MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE QC MP IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 1986

1. With permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to make a statement on the action being taken to secure the safety of British subjects and others in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.
2. On the 13th of January fighting broke out in Aden, the capital of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. The ferocity of the fighting presented grave risks to the safety of British subjects. In those circumstances, and with the full agreement of Her Majesty The Queen, the Royal Yacht 'Britannia', which was just leaving the Red Sea, was ordered to remain off Aden, and HM ships 'Newcastle' and 'Jupiter' with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary 'Brambleleaf', were ordered to Aden at full steam in case they were needed for an evacuation.
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thousand people, mostly their own nationals. On the same day, the Royal Yacht took off 450 people, 38 of them British - 44 nationalities altogether. Eighty-one French nationals were then transferred to a French ship, and the rest of the evacuees were taken on Britannia to Djibouti. The Royal Yacht then returned to the area and on the 19th of January lifted off a further 209 people from an area 35 miles from the capital. Eighteen of these were British. These have since arrived in Djibouti, after transferring to HMS Jupiter. I am now very pleased to be able to add that Britannia has this morning picked up a further 15 British nationals from Little Aden. Britannia is maintaining close contact with the vessels of the other nations involved and remains offshore nearby to take on board further parties of British and other foreign nationals as soon as conditions permit.

4. So far no British subjects have been hurt. However, a number of British subjects still remain in South Yemen and we are continuing to work out with other governments the best ways of evacuating these widely scattered communities.

5. On the evening of the 17th of January, when the Embassy and Residence had been rendered uninhabitable, the Ambassador, Mr Arthur Marshall, decided that he should withdraw all members of the Embassy. At the end of the evacuation, he accompanied those on board to Djibouti but then returned on Britannia to the area, where

he will remain with a member of his staff while the evacuation continues. Another member of his staff is on board HMS Newcastle.

6. The success of the evacuation so far would not have been possible without the help given by a number of governments, and in particular the governments of Djibouti, the USSR and France. This has been a remarkable demonstration of what can be achieved through close international cooperation, and I take this opportunity to thank them warmly for their assistance.

7. I should like to express my gratitude to all the staff of the Ministry of Defence and of the Diplomatic Service, at home and abroad, who have been involved in this operation. I should also like to thank our Honorary Consul in Djibouti, Mr Christopher Reddington. I know too that the whole House will join me in praising the calmness and efficiency of our Ambassador in Aden, his staff, and their families throughout this difficult period.

8. Their example has been matched by the fortitude of the British evacuees, who helped to organise the evacuation of hundreds of other nationals and who set an example of disciplined behaviour throughout.

9. This is the first time that the Royal Yacht has been involved in an operation of this sort. It has received magnificent support from HM ships 'Newcastle' and 'Jupiter' and Royal Fleet Auxiliary 'Brambleleaf', with its merchant navy crew. I should like to pay tribute to Rear Admiral John Garnier and all the officers and crew involved for the courage and professionalism they have shown in carrying out this operation in conditions of danger and difficulty. We can all be proud of them.

CC PRESS  
TF  
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Question

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this evening

Prime Minister

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PDRY : THE CURRENT SITUATIONEvacuation

1. Following the evacuation by the Royal Yacht 'Britannia' of 450 people (including 38 UK citizens) from Aden to Djibouti on 18/19 January, a further 209 people (including 18 UK citizens were evacuated from a point 35 miles north-east of Aden to Djibouti on 19/20 January. They arrived in Djibouti at 0410 this morning and will fly back on 23 January.
2. The first group of 25 British evacuees from Djibouti, including Mrs Marshall, arrived at Heathrow at 0755 on 20 January. They were met by Mr Eggar.
3. 'Britannia' is now trying to evacuate refugees (9 UK) from Little Aden and steamer point with the consent of the authorities. There has been a delay because the harbour authorities have said that there is now no need for an evacuation. The evacuees may have dispersed. 'Britannia' is maintaining negotiations with the harbour authorities. There are approximately 17 Britons in the area around Mukalla in Eastern PDRY. A French merchant ship plans an evacuation from that area on 21 January; HMS 'Hydra' is moving towards the area and maybe used for evacuation on 21 January.
4. About <sup>56</sup>~~50~~<sup>510</sup> Britons probably remain to be evacuated from the PDRY. HMA <sup>and</sup> First Secretary, who was evacuated in the second operation, are on board 'Britannia' helping to direct the overall evacuation effort. The Vice Consul is on board HMS 'Newcastle'.

Political Situation

5. The situation remains confused. Fighting died down in Aden town over night. There are growing indications that the rebels have

gained the upper hand at least in Aden town, and probably in most outlying areas.

6. President Ali Nasser yesterday flew to Addis Ababa, probably to make a personal appeal to Mengistu for military assistance. According to Addis Ababa radio, Ali Nasser has now returned 'home'. Other reports suggest he has flown either to Moscow or back to the PDRY. Any further absence from PDRY at the current critical juncture would suggest that the rebels have won. If he returns to the PDRY this might prolong the fighting.

7. It is still not clear who is leading the rebellion. The Russians have told us that the leader of the main opposition group is ex-President Abdul Fattah Ismail. Other leaders are Ali Antar and Defence Minister Saleh Musleh. There are an increasing number of broadcasts from Aden radio from rebel groups calling themselves 'the Politburo of the collective leadership'. These stress the continuity of friendship with the Soviet Union and Ethiopia, while denouncing Ali Nasser. While the rebel leadership is fragmented, it may hold together in the short term.

8. Foreign intervention seems unlikely. The Soviet Union seems at pains to prevent this. The Soviet Union is unlikely to intervene either directly or through a surrogate (Ethiopia) because of the damage it would do them politically in the rest of the Arab world. However, Soviet aircraft movements are being carefully monitored to check whether reports of the movement of more than 80 Aeroflot aircraft to the Red Sea area is intended for other than the evacuation of refugees.

Copies to:

Chief Clerk

Mr Long

Sir D Miers

Mr Johnson

Mr Fergusson

PS/Mr Eggar

PS/Mr Renton

PS



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Mr Johnson  
 Mr Fergusson  
 PS/Mr Eggar

PS/Mr Renton  
 PS

YEMEN .

PS(2)  
 PS/MR WENTON  
 PS/MR EGGAR  
 PS/PUS  
 MR FERGUSSON  
 MR EGERTON  
 CHIEF CLERK  
 MR BARRINGTON  
 MR LONG

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
 SEC(O)(C) MOD  
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 ASSESSMENT STAFF, CABINET OFFICE  
 PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST

FLASH

RESIDENT CLERK

SECRET

HD/MED  
 HD/SCD  
 HD/DEF D  
 HD/PUSD  
 HD/NEWS  
 HD/CONS D  
 HD/PLANNING STAFF  
 HD/SOVIET D  
 POD (WELFARE)



SECRET

FM MOSCOW

TO FLASH FCO

TELNO 087

OF 200900Z JANUARY 86

AND TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PARIS, SANA'A, CAIRO

ADEN EMERGENCY

U.S. EMBASSY MOSCOW TELL US IN VERY STRICT CONFIDENCE (PLEASE PROTECT) THAT THEY HAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO APPROACH THE SOVIET MFA ABOUT ADEN.

2. THE BASIS OF THEIR APPROACH IS A REPORT FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN CAIRO THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE ASKED FOR OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE FOR 83 (SIC) LARGE AEROFLOT AIRCRAFT EN ROUTE TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION APPARENTLY IN THE RED SEA AREA. THE AMERICANS ARE GOING IN AT COUNSELLOR LEVEL TO THE THE USA DEPT OF THE M.F.A. AT 0900Z TODAY AND WILL MAKE THE POINT THAT THE US HAS NO (NO) INTENTION OF BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE PDYR SITUATION AND DESPITE THESE REPORTS OF FLIGHTS HOPES THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS NOT INTENDING TO INTERVENE EITHER.

3. I BRIEFED THE AMERICANS ON THE SITUATION AS WE UNDERSTOOD IT AND REFERRED TO THE LARGE AIRLIFT THE RUSSIANS WERE MOUNTING TO DJIROUTI TO COLLECT EVACUEES. I ALSO WONDERED HOW THE RUSSIANS WOULD LAND IN ADEN WITH TROOPS IF THAT REALLY WAS, WHICH I DOUBTED, THEIR PURPOSE GIVEN THAT IT SEEMED THAT ADEN'S AIRPORT WAS STILL THE SCENE OF HEAVY FIGHTING AND PROBABLY ALSO RENDERED UNUSABLE BY BOMBING.

4. THE AMERICANS STRESS THAT THEIR APPROACH IS LOW KEY AND GEARED TO THE "SPIRIT OF GENEVA" IN WHICH NEITHER SHOULD DO ANYTHING TO ESCALATE ANY REGIONAL ISSUE INTO A WIDER, OR EAST/WEST PROBLEM.

HEMANS

YYYY

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

FM SANAA

TO IMMEDIATE DESKRY 201000Z FCO

TELNO 28

OF 200935Z JANUARY 86

AND TO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW, RIYADH, ADDIS ABABA, MUSCAT, WASHINGTON,

AND TO IMMEDIATE PARIS, DOHA, MODUK SEC (O) C DI (ROW)

SIC

ADEN EMEGENCY

MY TELNO 24: PDRY

SUMMARY

1. ALI NASR MOHAMMED ARRIVED SANAA MID MORNING AND IS PROCEEDING SOUTHWARDS. NORTH YEMENIS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT HIS CHANCES.

DETAIL

2. THE MFA, WHO HAVE BEEN VERY CAGEY ABOUT ALI NASR MOHAMMED'S MOVEMENTS CAME CLEAN THIS MORNING AND TOLD ME HE HAD ARRIVED BY AIR FROM ETHIOPIA AT ABOUT 0700Z AND WAS NOW RETURNING TO SOUTH YEMEN, APPARENTLY BY WAY OF AL BAYDHA AND THENCE TO ARYAN.

3. MFA SAID THAT ALTHOUGH ETHIOPIA WAS GIVING STRONG POLITICAL SUPPORT TO ALI NASR MOHAMMED, THEY WERE UNLIKELY TO INTERVENE MILITARILY. A HIGH LEVEL ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION LED BY DESTA FASEHA IS AT PRESENT IN SANAA.

4. THE MINISTRY BELIEVE ALI NASR'S PROSPECTS ARE GOOD AND IMPROVING. HE IS IN GOOD HEALTH. ONLY THE SECOND GOVERNORATE IS OPPOSING HIM AND EVEN THERE THEY BELIEVE THE REBELS' CONFIDENCE IS WANING. A MEDICAL CONVOY WAS TURNED BACK ON THE TAIZ/ ADEN ROAD YESTERDAY BECAUSE "WE DON'T NEED YOU". THIS MORNING THE SAME CONVOY HAD BEEN ALLOWED IN.

TATHAM

ATTEMPTED COUP IN ADEN  
LIMITED

MED  
NENAD  
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PUSD  
NEWS D  
INFO D  
CONSULAR D  
POD  
PSD  
PLANNING STAFF  
SECURITY D  
SOVIET D  
RESEARCH D  
EAD  
POD(WELFARE)

PS  
PS/MR RENTON  
PS/MR EGGAR  
PS/PUS  
MR FERGUSSON  
MR MIERS  
CHIEF CLERK  
MR BARRINGTON  
MR LONG  
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

COPIES TO :

SEC(O)(C) MOD  
DI ROW 3B MOD

OT4, OT1

ASSESSMENTS STAFF, CABINET OFFICE

MNED, ODA

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST**CONFIDENTIAL**



PS  
 PS/MR MENTON  
 PS/MR EGGAR  
 PS/PUS  
 MR FERGUSSON  
 MR EGERTON  
 CHIEF CLERK  
 MR BARRINGTON  
 MR LONG

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
 SEC(O)(C) MOD  
 DI ROW 3B MOD  
 ASSESSMENT STAFF, CABINET OFFICE  
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 ED/CONS D  
 ED/PLANNING STAFF  
 ED/SOVIET D  
 POD (WELFARE)



RESIDENT CLERK

**IMMEDIATE**  
**ADVANCE COPY**

CONFIDENTIAL  
 FM ADDIS ABABA  
 TO DESKBY 191800Z FCO  
 TELNO 17  
 OF 191645Z JANUARY 86  
 AND TO DESKBY 191800Z MOSCOW, SANA'A, RIYADH, MUSCAT,  
 INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PARIS, DOHA, MOGADISHU, MODUK (SEC)  
 (O)(C)D1(ROW)

*This is a  
 copy sent to  
 [unclear] MB*

YOUR TELNO 51: PDRY

1. ACCORDING TO THE AMERICANS, ALI NASSER, HAVING TRAVELLED BY ROAD ADEN-SANA'A, ARRIVED ADDIS ABABA AT 0100 LOCAL TIME 19 JANUARY IN THE YAR PRESIDENTIAL JET. HE LEFT IN THE SAME AIRCRAFT, APPARENTLY FOR MOSCOW, AT 1500 LOCAL TIME 19 JANUARY AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH MENGISTU.

2. WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE ABOUT THE DETAILS OF ALI NASSER'S DISCUSSIONS HERE BUT THE TRIPARTITE PACT BETWEEN PDRY, LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA, WHICH PROVIDES FOR MUTUAL SUPPORT IN THE EVENT OF AGGRESSION, MAY HAVE BEEN ON THE AGENDA. DESPITE THIS AND THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENT PROMISING SUPPORT FOR ALI NASSER, MY TEL NO 16 (NOT TO ALL), WITH THEIR OTHER MILITARY PREOCCUPATIONS, E.G. ERITREA, ETHIOPIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN PDRY SEEMS UNLIKELY PARTICULARLY AT THIS STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS. WE AGREE THAT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT ALI NASSER WOULD HAVE LEFT ADEN UNLESS HE CONSIDERED THAT THE BATTLE WAS VIRTUALLY LOST.

BARDER

YYYYP50340

*[ ADVANCED F.R. x PASSED ON 1986 ]*

PRIME MINISTER

ADEN RESCUE

The President of Djibouti happened to be at the airport when RAF Hercules planes landed there. Although the landings had already been cleared in advance, the President became rather agitated on seeing the planes and RAF personnel emerging from them. (He apparently feared some sort of military operation).

The Foreign Office have asked if they may use your name in messages of explanation which they are sending to the President, to help convince him of the peaceful nature of the presence of military personnel in his country.

Content for the FCO to use your name in support of their messages?

*Yes - of course*  
*ms*

Debbie

18 January 1986

PS  
 PS/MR WENTON  
 PS/MR EGGAR  
 PS/PUS  
 MR FERGUSSON  
 MR EGERTON  
 CHIEF CLERK  
 MR BARRINGTON  
 MR LONG

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
 SEC(O)(C) MOD  
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 ASSESSMENT STAFF, CABINET OFFICE  
 PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST

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 ED/NEWS  
 ED/CONS D  
 ED/PLANNING STAFF  
 ED/SOVIET D  
 POD (WELFARE)

RESIDENT CLERK

*M. W. ...*



FM WASHI TO FCOLN  
 172355Z JAN  
 GRG 500

SECRET

FM WASHINGTON

TO FLASH FOO (FOR EMERGENCY UNIT) **ADVANCE COPY**

TELNO 139

OF 172355Z

INFO IMMEDIATE RIYADH, SANA'A, MUSCAT, MOSCOW, PARIS

COUP IN PDRY: US PLANNING.

SUMMARY

1. SAUDI INTEREST IN DERIVING ADVANTAGE FROM EVENTS IN PDRY, AND EVIDENCE OF POSSIBLE SOVIET INTENTIONS TO INTERVENE THROUGH ETHIOPIA STIMULATE DEBATE IN THE ADMINISTRATION ABOUT HOW TO REACT TO THE COUP.

DETAIL

2. STATE DEPARTMENT CONTACTS HAVE TOLD US IN STRICT CONFIDENCE (PLEASE PROTECT) THAT A MEMBER OF KING FAHD'S OFFICE ASKED THE US AMBASSADOR ON 16 JANUARY WHETHER THE UNITED STATES SAW ANY OPPORTUNITY TO TURN EVENTS IN PDRY TO LONG OR SHORT TERM MODERATE ARAB AND WESTERN ADVANTAGE.
3. WE ARE TOLD THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO GIVE THIS SOME THOUGHT. INSTRUCTIONS WERE SENT ON 16 JANUARY FOR US EMBASSIES IN LONDON, PARIS, RIYADH, SANA'A, MUSCAT, CAIRO AND AMMAN TO ASK HOST GOVERNMENTS TO SHARE THEIR ASSESSMENT: TO POINT OUT THAT QUOTE WE HAVE A MUTUAL INTEREST IN DOING WHAT WE CAN TO INFLUENCE THE COURSE OF EVENTS AT A TIME WHEN THE PRECISE DEGREE OF SOVIET INFLUENCE AMONG PARTY LEADERS IS IN QUESTION UNQUOTE; AND TO ELICIT IDEAS FOR WORKING TOGETHER OR INDIVIDUALLY TO QUOTE SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY UNQUOTE.
4. THE SAUDI REQUEST SPURRED THIS PROCESS. OFFICIALS IN STATE SAID THE SAUDI REQUEST HAD STRUCK SPARKS AT HIGH LEVEL IN THE ADMINISTRATION. ACCORDING TO TEICHER (NSC), INTER-AGENCY MEETINGS TODAY HAD FOCUSED ON THE FOLLOWING:
- i. THE UPHEAVAL IN PDRY WOULD WORK AGAINST THE SHORT-TERM SOVIET INTEREST, EVEN IF, AS WAS ALMOST INEVITABLE, THEY BACKED THE WINNERS AND WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN RE-ESTABLISHING ORDER.
  - ii. BUT THIS DAMAGE TO THE SOVIET POSITION COULD BE BEST EXPLOITED IF IT WAS SIGNALLED TO THE SUCCESSOR REGIME THAT A STRATEGIC ALTERNATIVE EXISTED FOR PDRY TO

EXPLOITED IF IT WAS SIGNALLED TO THE SUCCESSOR REGIME THAT A STRATEGIC ALTERNATIVE EXISTED FOR PDRY TO CONSIDER.

111. MOHAMMED ALI AHMED, GOVERNOR OF ABYAN, WAS THE BEST PROSPECT FOR A CHANGE OF DIRECTION BY THE REGIME.

5. TEICHER SAID IN TERMS THAT THE UNITED STATES WERE NOT CONTEMPLATING ANY INTERVENTION THEMSELVES AND THAT WHETHER ANY ACTION WAS TAKEN DEPENDED ON OUR FRIENDS (I.E SAUDI ARABIA AND YAR).

6. THE MOOD AT OFFICIAL LEVEL IN STATE DEPARTMENT WAS MORE CAUTIOUS. THEY DOUBTED THAT ANY REGIME COULD HAVE ANY REALISTIC ALTERNATIVE TO STARTING RECONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRY WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE.

7. POSSIBLE ETHIOPIAN PREPARATIONS AT SOVIET BEHEST DROPPED, THEREFORE, INTO AN ALREADY LOADED ATMOSPHERE. MEETINGS WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUE. AT THIS STAGE, WE BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES' ANXIETIES TO BE:

1. THAT THE SOVIET UNION MAY INTRODUCE AN OUTSIDE (SURROGATE) MILITARY FORCE TO INFLUENCE DEVELOPMENTS AND

11) THAT THIS WOULD DIMINISH THE CHANCES OF LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENTS FAVOURABLE TO THE WESTERN INTEREST.

8. INR HAVE TOLD US THAT THE ADMINISTRATION ARE CONSIDERING WHETHER THEY SHOULD ENCOURAGE SAUDI OR YAR ACTION TO FORESTALL INTERVENTION FROM ETHIOPIA. WE HAVE ASKED TO BE KEPT INFORMED IF ANY SUCH PLAN DEVELOPED. THEY WOULD WELCOME OUR EARLIEST POSSIBLE ASSESSMENT

9.FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO ASSESSMENTS STAFF, CABINET OFFICE.

WRIGHT

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YYYY

ORWBAH 0399

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FLASH

CONFIDENTIAL

FM ADEN

TO FLASH FCO

TELENO U/N

OF 171612Z JANUARY 86

AND TO FLASH MOD, ROYAL YACHT BRITANNIA, MOSCOW, PARIS,  
 SANAA.

YOUR TELNO 014 : EVACUATION.

1. I HAVE MADE A DECISION TO CLOSE THIS EMBASSY COMPLETELY AT 0330Z TOMORROW 19 JANUARY. THERE IS REALLY NO CHOICE (SEE BELOW). PLEASE ARRANGE AN URGENT BBC MESSAGE TO ALL BRITISH CITIZENS IN THE ADEN PPT ADEN AREA TO ASSEMBLE AT THE NORTH EAST CORNER OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY COMPOUND BY 0630 LOCAL TIME. MEANWHILE WE HOPE TO HAVE CONTACTED MOST OF THEM BY TELEPHONE. BRITISH CITIZENS OUTSIDE THE ADEN AREA SHOULD BE TOLD TO AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS (SEE BELOW).
2. MY DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN AFTER SEEING FOR MYSELF THIS AFTERNOON THE CHAOS IN KHORMAKSAR AND MAALA, AFTER OBSERVING THE UNRULY NATURE OF THE MILITIA EVERYWHERE, AND AFTER HEARING THE ADVICE OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY, WHO SAY THAT ALTHOUGH AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED YESTERDAY BY THE TWO WARRING SIDES THE REBELS ARE TOTALLY ANARCHIC, THAT LIFE IN ADEN HAS BECOME UNTENABLE. FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE A BRITISH PRESENCE IN ADEN WILL DO NOTHING TO HELP THOSE CUT OFF IN THE INTERIOR. OTHER RESCUE OPERATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE MOUNTED INDEPENDENTLY, PROBABLY OF AN SAS TYPE OF OPERATION.
3. I ACCOMPANIED A FIRST BATCH OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN EVACUEES TO ABYAN BEACH AT 1500 LOCAL TODAY, INCLUDING THREE LADIES OF THIS EMBASSY. THEY ARE STILL WAITING TO BE PICKED UP. IF NEEDED THEY WILL GO OUT IN RUSSIAN BOATS AND HOPEFULLY TRANSFER AT SEA TO THE ROYAL YACHT. THE SITUATION AT ABYAN BEACH COULD DETERIORATE AT ANY MOMENT.

MARSHALL

YYYY

AFHPAN 120

Passed L/R.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 January 1986

*mf*  
*Dear Charles.*

Aden Evacuation

You may find it useful to have a summary of where we now stand on the evacuation of British subjects from Aden. We have kept in the closest touch with the Ministry of Defence at Ministerial and official level.

The security situation in Aden has continued to deteriorate. The Soviet Union has tried to mediate between the warring factions but clearly without success. We do not know whether the lull in the fighting which occurred today was a result of their mediation, but there is no evidence of a wider ceasefire. Our preliminary assessment of a confused situation is that there is a very deep rift - personal or tribal rather than ideological - between the two sides, with the likelihood that fighting will continue for some time to come. There are reports of reinforcements for both sides coming in from the interior.

After a meeting with Mr Stanley, Sir Geoffrey Howe agreed that discretion should be given to the Ambassador and the Flag Officer of the Royal Yacht Britannia to go ahead with the evacuation of British subjects and others for whom we have responsibility if the circumstances permitted this. They were instructed to coordinate the evacuation with the Soviet Embassy and the French Embassy, both of whose countries have larger forces than ours in the area.

We have not been able to have a full account of the negotiations which took place in Aden but it seems that agreement was reached between the three Ambassadors that an evacuation should take place involving French and Soviet ships. The evacuation, which started at mid-afternoon in Aden, was chaotic. In those circumstances, the Ambassador asked the Royal Yacht to send small boats to pick up the British women and children even though darkness was falling. Otherwise they would have been stranded at the beach. As this proposal had the agreement of the Soviet Embassy (Soviet ships had earlier warned the Royal Yacht to stay outside the 12 mile limit) Flag Officer Royal Yacht went ahead. Although this Soviet agreement was later countermanded by the Soviet Ambassador (who undertook to evacuate all British subjects in Soviet boats) that change of decision came too late and the Royal Yacht had already moved in to within 1½ miles of the beach, with local Soviet agreement.

/Britannia

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2  
*apt*

*Prime Minister*  
*A very risky situation indeed.*  
*CDP:ji*



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Britannia has taken off 5 British people and 22 of other nationalities. The Royal Yacht hopes to resume evacuation at dawn tomorrow, if the security situation permits. Sir Geoffrey Howe believes that we have no alternative but to work with the Russians who are in the strongest position locally.

The Foreign Secretary has spoken directly to the French Foreign Minister about maintaining as close consultation as possible. M. Dumas said that he had instructed his Ambassador to stay, with minimal support for the time being. He has also sent a message to the Acting Foreign Minister in Moscow. The Russians are evacuating women and children only. In these circumstances, although the Foreign Secretary has great sympathy with the Ambassador's proposal that the Embassy should close down entirely in the present highly dangerous conditions in Aden, he has asked him if he and his communications officer could remain, perhaps in the French Embassy, at least while Britons in the immediate area remain to be evacuated. The final decision must of course rest with the man on the spot.

So far there has been no report of any British casualties but a number of Britons, including the Embassy's Head of Chancery and family, remain in South Yemen completely cut off from Aden. Even if we are able to evacuate the rest of the British subjects in Aden tomorrow it is likely to be some time before we are in a position to evacuate the outlying areas. For the moment they are safest staying put, but we are looking at options with the Ministry of Defence.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram in the Ministry of Defence.

*Yours ever,*

*Le Appleyard*

(L V Appleyard)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell  
10 Downing Street

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GRS 400

**CONFIDENTIAL**

*A graphic account*

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FN ADEN

TO FLASH F C O

TELNO 048

OF 161940Z JANUARY 86

AND TO DESKBY 170600Z SANAA

AND TO DESKBY 170630Z MOSCOW

*mt*

**COUP : ROUNDUP FOR 16 JANUARY**

1. IT HAS BEEN A SCARY DAY FOR EVERYONE IN KHORMAKSAR DISTRICT ON ACCOUNT THE PROLONGED EXCHANGES OF ARTILLERY AND SMALL ARMS FIRE THROUGHOUT THE DAY. THE RUSSIANS, FRENCH, OURSELVES AND MANY OTHERS HAVE HAD A TRYING TIME. MERCIFULLY THE UNDP REPRESENTATIVE WAS ABLE TO RESCUE THE FRG CHARGE AND HIS WIFE AND LITTLE CHILDREN FROM THE WRECKAGE OF THEIR EMBASSY WHICH IS NEXT DOOR TO OUR OWN RESIDENCE, IN AN AREA WHERE FIRE CONTINUES TO BURN INTO THE NIGHT. HOW MUCH MORE DAMAGE MY RESIDENCE HAS SUFFERED I CANNOT SAY.

2. EVEN WORSE OFF, AND IN DETERIORATING CIRCUMSTANCES ARE THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR AND HIS WIFE IN TAWAH AND THE INDIAN CHARGE AND 14 OTHER STAFF NEXT DOOR, WHERE FIGHTING HAS BEEN BITTER AND THE ROADS RENDERED IMPASSABLE BY ESCAPING FUELBOIL FROM PIPELINES.

3. IN VAIN ONE HAS SEARCHED THE RADIO FREQUENCIES FOR RELIABLE BROADCASTS TO INDICATE ANY STABILISING OF THE SITUATION AND FOR ONCE OUR CITIZENS IN ADEN HOTEL WERE SAFER THERE THAN IN THIS EMBASSY.

4. I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO TALK TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABOUT THE EVACUATION PLAN AND NEGOTIATIONS. I WAS TOLD IT WAS UNSAFE FOR HIM TO COME TO THE PHONE. I LEFT A MESSAGE FOR HIM HOWEVER WITH A SECOND SECRETARY REFERRING TO HMA MOSCOW MEETING WITH KERNIENKO. I GATHER HE IS NOT YET IN TOUCH WITH THE WARRING SIDES AT PRESENT WHICH DOES NOT SURPRISE ME, BUT THE RUSSIAN COUNSELLOR TOLD MY FRENCH COLLEAGUE TODAY THAT CEASEFIRE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN GOING ON ALL DAY AND WILL RESUME TOMORROW.

5. MEANWHILE DAVE CLARKE OF BOVIS INTERNATIONAL HAS ESTABLISHED A VALUABLE CONTACT AT ADEN HOTEL WITH THE DISTRICT MILITARY COMMANDER, WHO IS OUR BEST AND ONLY CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT FORCES TO DATE. HE CLAIMS HE WAS PRESENT AT THE COURT MARTIAL SENTENCING THE 4 TO DEATH ON 13 JANUARY. HE IS CERTAIN THE SENTENCES WERE CARRIED OUT.

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*16*



# CONFIDENTIAL

6. BY NIGHTFALL THERE WAS A MERCIFUL LULL IN THE FIGHTING IN BOTH KHORNAKSAR AND TAWAHI WHICH HOLDS AT THE TIME OF SENDING THIS. IN SUM, IT HAS BEEN A VERY TRYING DAY, BUT MY STAFF ARE WONDERFUL AND ARE COPING MARVELLOUSLY.

MARSHALL

ATTEMPTED COUP IN ADEN  
LIMITED

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Yemen



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

19 July, 1982

RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

The Prime Minister has noted the minute of 15 July by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary in which he concludes that we should make a cautious but positive response to PDRY overtures for a better relationship with the United Kingdom. She has also noted that Mr Pym proposes to announce in answer to a Parliamentary Question that we shall be raising our representation in Aden to Ambassadorial level.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the other members of OD.

A. J. DOLES

Francis Richards, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

RM



PM/82/58

PRIME MINISTERPrime Minister

To note.

A-J-C.  $\frac{15}{7}$ 

MB

Relations with the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY)

1. For some time the policies of the Soviet-backed PDRY have posed a threat to the stability of the Arabian Peninsula. But in the past year the PDRY has shown signs of wanting a better relationship with the UK and the West which could conceivably reflect a readiness to loosen ties with the Soviet bloc. There have been a series of approaches to us, including to Douglas Hurd from their Foreign Minister last year, making clear their desire to improve relations. The theme has been that, despite long-standing difficulties in our relationship, there remains a reservoir of goodwill towards us in a wide range of fields.
2. It is not yet clear whether the Yemenis are genuinely disenchanted with the Soviet Union or whether they are simply looking for external support without political strings to alleviate their economic difficulties. There are divisions in the Adeni leadership, with President Ali Nasser Mohammed in favour of a more pragmatic relationship with the West, and others advocating the continuation of a doctrinaire marxist approach. We have in any event made clear to the Adenis that no real improvement in their relations with us is possible as long as they continue to be seen as the main fomenters of instability in their corner of Arabia (their relationship with extremist Palestinians has been a cause for concern, although less so in recent years). My conclusion is nevertheless that we should make a cautious but positive response to PDRY overtures in the hope of encouraging those in Aden who favour a more moderate approach and better relations with the West. I am far from sure that the Adenis are ready to change their spots: but if ever they are, we need to encourage, not rebuff, them.
3. I am therefore taking the following modest measures.
  - (i) Raising our representation to ambassadorial level (as was the case up to 1975).
  - (ii) The offer of some modest assistance in the English language teaching field. This would develop an existing

/asset



asset (all further education in Aden is still conducted in English - not Russian).

(iii) Encouragement of more contact with the PDRY Government, eg by paying attention to the Foreign Minister when he next travels through London.

(iv) A possible visit by an FCO Minister to PDRY in 1983.

We would make clear to the Adenis that it would be up to them to make a further gesture if they were serious in their intention of developing a better relationship.

2. 4. I have of course taken carefully into account the likely reactions to my proposals among the Arab Gulf States and in particular Oman and Saudi Arabia. I am confident that the above measures proposed will not cause difficulties to the Gulf States, including Oman and Saudi Arabia. Indeed, Sultan Oaboos (who has been specially briefed) has confirmed that he has no objection and is himself co-operating with Kuwaiti and UAE attempts to improve relations between Oman and the PDRY.

5. There could be some interest in this, given the PDRY's reputation in recent years. I therefore propose to announce the change in our representation in Aden through an inspired PQ.

6. I am copying this to other members of OB.

(FRANCIS PYM)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

15 July, 1982

*Yemen*

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FM ADEN 190800Z MAY 81  
TO PRIORITY F C G  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 174 OF 19 MAY 1981  
AND TO INFO MUSCAT  
INFO SAVING SANA'A, JEDDA

MY TELNO 173: PDRY PROTEST OVER REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO THE  
PRIME MINISTER

1. SAEED HADI ANADH PREFACED THE PASSING OF THE NOTE WITH A PREAMBLE STATING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WELCOMED VISITS TO THE MIDDLE EAST SUCH AS THAT UNDERTAKEN BY MRS THATCHER SINCE THEY WOULD RESULT IN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEMS. THE YEMENIS ALSO DID NOT OBJECT TO THE VISIT MRS THATCHER PAID TO THE BORDER AREA SINCE THIS WAS ON OMANI TERRITORY AND SHE WAS THEIR GUEST.
2. SAEED HADI'S PROTEST THEN DELIVERED WAS SOMEWHAT HALF-HEARTED. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED AND SURPRISED AT THE REMARKS ABOUT SOVIET PRESENCE IN PDRY SINCE HIS GOVERNMENT HAD REPEATEDLY STATED THAT NO SOVIET BASES EXISTED HERE. HE DID NOT PROCEED, AS DOES THE NOTE, TO COMMENT ON IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS OR INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE NOTE HE HANDED OVER WAS IN ARABIC AND DID NOT FIGURE IN OUR DISCUSSION.
3. I SAID HE WOULD NOT DENY SOVIET PRESENCE IN PDRY AND AFTER A SHORT EXCHANGE WE AGREED TO DIFFER ON THE DEFINITION OF A MILITARY BASE. SINCE HE PRODUCED NO DIRECT QUOTATION ATTRIBUTED TO MRS THATCHER I CONTENTED MYSELF BY POINTING OUT THAT WITH REGARD TO SOVIET ACTIVITIES SHE HAD BEEN AT PAINS THROUGHOUT HER VISIT TO THE GULF TO UNDERLINE HMG'S CONTINUING CONCERN AT SOVIET MILITARIST ACTIVITY IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE DANGER IT POSED FOR THE WHOLE REGION. HMG'S VIEW ON THIS WAS UNCHANGED. HE NOTED MY COMMENTS BUT DID NOT RESPOND.
4. HE THEN STATED THAT THE PDRY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN LONDON HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE PARALLEL REPRESENTATIONS. I SAID I WOULD CONVEY THE NOTE TO MY GOVERNMENT BUT PRESUMED THAT A RESPONSE MIGHT BE MADE TO THE PDRY EMBASSY IN LONDON.

*15. AS THE*

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5. AS THE TALK GREW LESS FORMAL SAEED HADI SAID MRS THATCHER HAD BEEN TAKEN TO A HILLTOP AND SHOWN PDRY, SHE HAD THEN MADE STATEMENTS TO PRESS MEN. THIS PRESUMABLY REFERS TO THE INCIDENT COVERED IN LPS OF 24 APRIL ALTHOUGH THE WORDS THERE REPORTED WERE NOT USED BY SAEED HADI.

6. I AWAIT YOUR INSTRUCTIONS IF YOU FEEL A RESPONSE SHOULD BE MADE HERE RATHER THAN IN LONDON.

FCO PSE PASS MUSAT.

MCKERNAN

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CABINET OFFICE

[REPEATED AS  
REQUESTED]

COPIES SENT TO  
No. 10 DOWNING STREET

*From Minister*

*A balanced and feasible protest  
from the PDRY about what you have  
in Oman about the Soviet presence  
in that country.*

*[Handwritten signature]*

GR 170

UNCLASSIFIED

FM ADEN 190800Z MAY 81

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 173 OF 19 MAY

INFO MUSCAT

SAVING (FOR INFO) SANA'A AND JEDDA

**PDY PROTEST AT REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO THE PRIME MINISTER**

1. I WAS CALLED IN TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON 18 APRIL BY DIRECTOR, WESTERN EUROPE DEPARTMENT, SAEED HADI AWADH, WHO HANDED ME A NOTE OF WHICH THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION MADE IN THE EMBASSY OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE NOTE:

QUOTE THE MINISTRY WISH TO ASK THE ESTEEMED EMBASSY TO CONVEY TO THE APPROPRIATE BRITISH AUTHORITIES THE CONCERN OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN AT THE STATEMENTS MADE BY MRS MARGARET THATCHER, PRIME MINISTER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, DURING HER VISIT TO THE YEMENI-OMANI BORDER AREA AND TO HER REFERENCE TO SOVIET PRESENCE IN DEMOCRATIC YEMEN. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONSIDER THAT SUCH STATEMENTS WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE REAL SITUATION, ARE IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS AND CONSTITUTE CLEAR INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC YEMEN, WHICH IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND INTERNATIONAL LAW. UNQUOTE.

2. COMMENTS FOLLOW IN MIFT.

MCKERNAN

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- ECD
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*Subject*

*Yemen*

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No. 10 Downing St.

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GRS 62  
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FM FCO 071300Z MAY 80  
TO IMMEDIATE ADEN  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 395 OF 7 MAY  
REPEATED TO PRIORITY JEDDA, MUSCAT, WASHINGTON  
SAVING TO SANA'A

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T108/80**

1. PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO ALI KASSER MOHAMMED FROM THE PRIME MINISTER NOW THAT HIS APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME PEOPLE'S COUNCIL HAS BEEN CONFIRMED. BEGIN  
PLEASE ACCEPT MY CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD WISHES ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME PEOPLE'S COUNCIL.  
ENDS.

CARRINGTON

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MEMO ODA

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24  
B/F and King  
to Aden to Yemen  
3/5

2 May, 1980.

PDRY

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 1 May and has approved the enclosed message to Ali Nasser Mohammed.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Paul Lever, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

9p.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*Prime Minister**Agree text?**Paul - 1/5*

1 May 1980

*Use note**Dear Michael,*People's Democratic Republic of Yemen

The Head of State, Mr Abdul Fattah Ismail, resigned on 20 April allegedly on medical grounds. Although he has suffered from TB for a number of years, it seems more likely that he has been ousted as a result of the power struggle that has been taking place within the Yemen Socialist Party, in which his chief adversaries have been the Defence Minister, Ali Antar, and the Prime Minister, Ali Nasser Mohammed.

Ali Nasser Mohammed has been appointed Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council (i.e. Head of State) in succession to Abdul Fattah Ismail. Ali Nasser's succession is a welcome development. He can be expected to follow a rather less Marxist and more pragmatic approach than his predecessor. Nonetheless, his freedom of action will necessarily be limited because of the strong Soviet influence in the PDRY.

The Secretary of State considers that it would be appropriate to mark this promising development in the PDRY by sending a message from the Prime Minister. We understand that the French and Italian Heads of State intend to send formal messages. I attach a telegram containing a suggested text.

*Yours etc**Paul*

(P Lever)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON

File No. ....

Department MED

Drafted by  
(Block Capitals) .....

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OUTWARD

TELEGRAM

Security Classification	
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FOR COMMS. DEPT. USE	Despatched (Date) ..... (Time) ..... Z	POSTBY ..... Z
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TO IMMEDIATE ADEN (precedence) (post) Tel. No. .... of .....

AND TO (precedence/post) .....

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REPEATED TO (for info) PRIORITY JEDDA MUSCAT WASHINGTON

SAVING TO (for info) SANA'A

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- Mr J C Moberly
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- CRE 5 DOT
- MEMD ODA
- Cabinet Office

[TEXT]

Please convey the following message to Ali Nasser Mohammed from the Prime Minister once his appointment as Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council is confirmed. Begins:

Please accept my congratulations and good wishes on your appointment as Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council.

Ends

M.

Yemen

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FM ADEN 221000Z APRIL 80

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 131 OF 22 APRIL

AND TO PRIORITY SANA'A, JEDDA, MUSCAT AND WASHINGTON



PDRY: INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. MINISTER SENT TO THE QBP, ANNOBAN, EDUCATION, IS NOT A POLITICAL FIGURE. HE CHEERFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE MAY BE MANY QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED, BUT SAID HE WAS NOT THE PERSON TO ANSWER THEM. THIS CERTAINLY SUGGESTS THAT THERE IS MORE TO THE HAND OVER THAN IS APPARENT. DEPUTY MINISTER (EMIGRANT AFFAIRS) WAS PRESENT BUT ALSO DECLINED TO COMMENT. OTHER OFFICIALS WERE SIMILARLY DISCREET.

2. ALL SOCIALIST AMBASSADORS FAILED TO ATTEND QBP EXCEPT THE HUNGARIAN. THE CUBAN ONLY HAD REGRETTED BEFORE THE EVENTS OF 20/21 APRIL. MOST SENT APOLOGIES WITH THEIR DEPUTIES, THE RUSSIAN DID NOT. THE EAST GERMAN WHO IS FRIENDLY AND POLITE, SAID HE HOPED TO COME LATE BUT DID NOT. IT IS TEMPTING TO ASSUME THEY WERE IN CONCLAVE.

3. SOCIALIST HEADS OF POST WERE DETAINED AFTER THE CORPS' BRIEFING ON 21 APRIL - THE ROMANIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES WAS BROUGHT BACK FROM HIS CAR. HE SAID SALEH SALH MOHAMMED SAID LITTLE NEW BUT STRESSED THAT CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WOULD STILL BE THE MAIN POINT IN PDRY'S FOREIGN POLICY. MOHAMMED SAID THAT A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION WOULD SHORTLY VISIT THEIR CAPITALS TO EMPHASISE THIS POINT.

4. ACCORDING TO THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR, THE ARABS DID NOT RECEIVE FURTHER INFORMATION OF INTEREST. HE SAYS HE WAS NOT WARNED IN ADVANCE OF THE CHANGE. HE SAID ABDEL FATTAH HAD RECENTLY SEEMED QUOTE TIRED UNQUOTE, BUT WAS NOT CONVINCING IN THIS. HE FELT THAT A TOO CLOSE ALLIANCE WITH MOSCOW MARXISM WAS NOT GOOD FOR PDRY OR, IN THE LONG RUN, FOR THE USSR EITHER SINCE IT WAS DISTASTEFUL TO MOST ARABS. HE AGREED THIS EXTENDED TO THE FLAUNTING OF SUPPORT FOR ARAB COMMUNIST PARTIES. HE SAYS FURTHER GOVERNMENT CHANGES ARE EXPECTED AND SUPPOSED THAT MUTIE WOULD BECOME PRIME MINISTER. THE ROMANIAN ALSO HOPED FOR MUTIE'S ELECTION AND SAID THERE HAD BEEN A SERIOUS DIFFERENCE OF OPINION OVER THE EVENTUAL NON-ATTENDANCE OF PDRY AT THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN ISLAMABAD. HE CLAIMED ANOTHER ISLAMIC CONFERENCE WOULD BE HELD IN ABOUT A MONTH IN EITHER ISLAMABAD OR KABUL (EXTRAORDINARY CHOICE) AND THAT PDRY WOULD ATTEND.

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5. MEANWHILE MESSAGES HAVE BEEN SENT TO VARIOUS ARAB GOVERNMENTS. USHAISH, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS HAS GONE TO SANA'A, THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS GONE TO KUWAIT, UAE AND SAUDI ARABIA AND ANOTHER EMISSARY TO SYRIA, LEBANON AND THE PLP. N

FCO PLEASE PASS PRIORITY SANA'A JEDDA MUSCAT AND WASHINGTON.

MC KERNAN

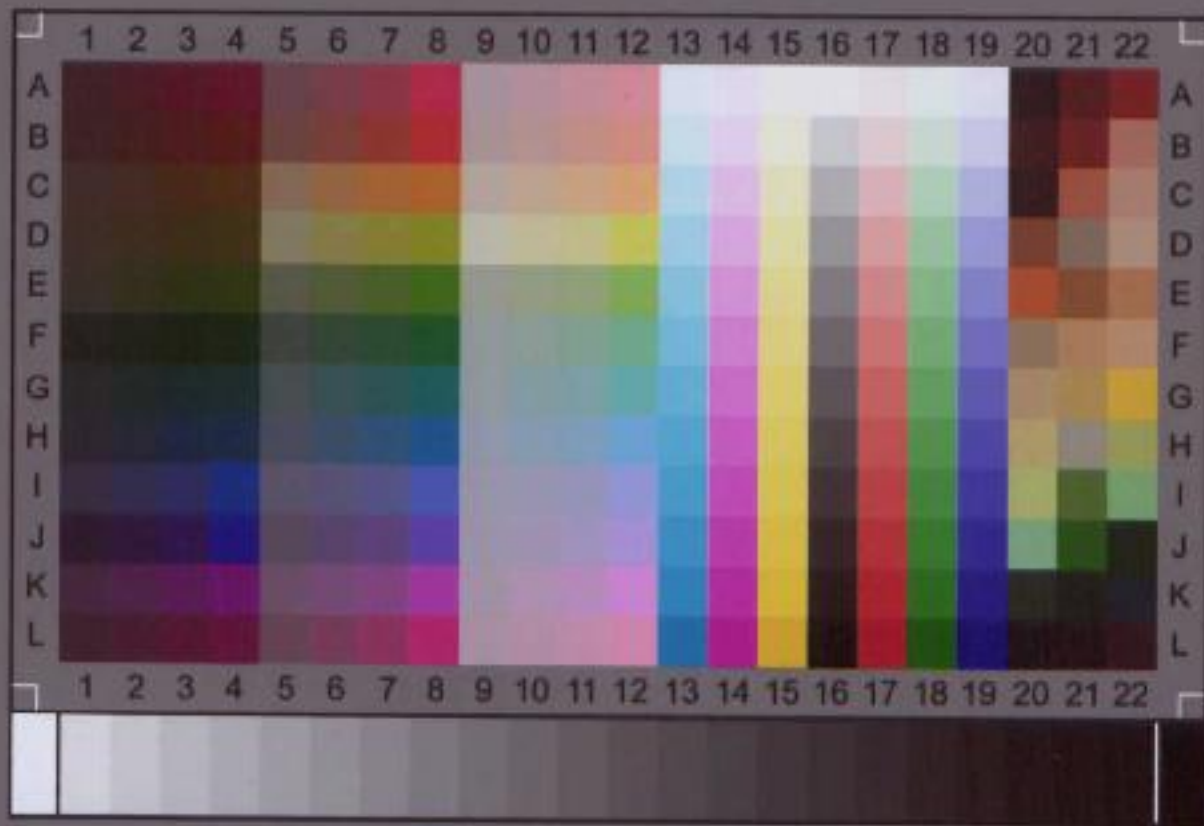
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