

Visit by the President of
Somalia Major General
Mohamed Siad Barre and
by the Prime Minister of Somalia

SOMALIA

March 1982

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
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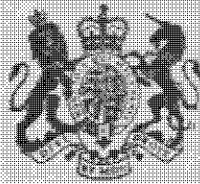
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CLOSED**

DESPATCHER

I have checked with the FO
and Samatar should definitely
be spelt that way rather than
Samater as in his letter.

Monica
24.4.89



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

25 April 1989

Dear General Samatar,

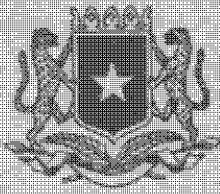
Thank you for your letter of 29 March. I am glad that you found your visit to Britain worthwhile.

I am pleased to hear that you have begun to implement the essential reforms you told me about during your visit. I urge you to persevere and I can assure you of our support in this. We shall be reviewing our aid to Somalia in the light of progress on the points which I discussed with you.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

General Mohamed Ali Samatar



Ref. XWK/25-142/89

Date 29-3-89

Subject: _____

رقم الفيد
التاريخ
الموضوع

H.E. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister of United Kingdom.

Excellency,

May I take this opportunity to thank you and your government for the warm welcome and the generous hospitality extended to us during our recent working visit to Great Britain. We specially appreciate the opportunity you gave us to explain to you our plans for reforms in the economic, social and human rights sectors.

I have conveyed your views and advice to my president and government, and we feel that they would be helpful in addressing some of our problems.

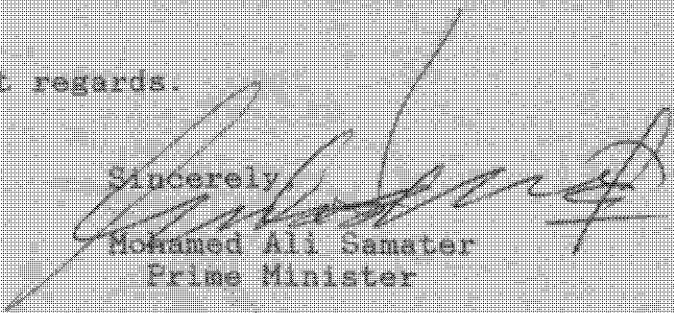
As you already know we have started the implementation of some of the planned reforms that I have conveyed to you. We have reached an understanding with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank on economic reforms. All the political prisoners were released, and a high level Committee was appointed to bring about rehabilitation and reconciliation in the North.

We are hopeful that with our own efforts and help from our friends we would be able to solve our problems. In this connection, Her Majesty's Government assistance and support would be appreciated.

Your Excellency, once again, I would like to thank you for the warm reception accorded to us during our stay in Great Britain, and the opportunity you gave us to exchange views with you.

Please accept our warmest regards.

Sincerely


Mohamed Ali Samatar
Prime Minister

*ea*
*bpc**SUBJECT: MASTER*

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

24 January 1989

Dear Sir,

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE SOMALI PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister had a talk this afternoon with the Somali Prime Minister. General Samatar was accompanied by the Somali Ambassador and by a member of his staff.

The Prime Minister enquired after President Barré's health. We had looked forward to his visit last year and had been disappointed when he had had to postpone it. We had three main concerns about the present situation in Somalia. The first was about human rights. We hoped that the Somali Government would take steps to improve the human rights situation and allow visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross. Such visits would be a good way to let the world see that the Somali Government had nothing to hide and was indeed set upon improving conditions. Our second concern was with reports of closer contacts between Somalia and Libya. There had even been reports that Somalia might have acquired or be acquiring chemical weapons from Libya. This would be a very serious matter and she hoped it was not true. Thirdly, we were anxious to see Somalia reach early agreement with the IMF on an informal programme.


General Samatar thanked the Prime Minister for seeing him at short notice. The purpose of his visit was to explain the decisions recently taken by the Somali Government to improve the overall situation in the country and clear up various misunderstandings. General Samatar handed over details of these decisions (enclosed). He added that it had now been agreed that a delegation from Amnesty International would visit Somalia on 25 April. The International Red Cross were already present in Somalia and were welcome to visit anywhere at any time. He could assure the Prime Minister that Somalia did not have and would never have chemical weapons. Anyway they did not make any military sense for the sort of operations involved in the north. It was true that Somalia had renewed its contacts with Libya, as indeed with other countries in the area such as Ethiopia. The basic purpose had been to neutralise them and disarm their hostility towards Somalia. But it was not intended to develop relations with Libya more than this objective required. General Samatar added that Somalia was also on the verge of reaching an agreement with the IMF. The Finance Minister and the Governor of the Central Bank would be in Washington shortly to conclude

it. The Somali Government needed the help and support of the United Kingdom in its new policies. They were disappointed that we were suspending aid rather than increasing it.

The Prime Minister commented that a number of decisions which General Samatar had mentioned were presumably very recent and had not yet had time to be implemented. She pressed him in particular on freedom of movement for the ICRC, and on how close agreement with the IMF really was. This gave rise to some debate within the Somali delegation as a result of which General Samatar gave an assurance that there would be no obstacles to the ICRC visiting anywhere they wished. The Prime Minister continued that it would not be right to review our aid programme until the new policies described by General Samatar on human rights, on the ICRC and on agreement with the IMF had clearly and visibly been implemented. We would ask our Ambassador to keep us regularly informed about the situation in the country. Provided progress was genuinely made in the directions indicated by General Samatar, we would then review our aid programme to see if we could help more.

General Samatar thanked the Prime Minister for the understanding she had shown and for her advice which the Somali Government would take. He regretted the very unfavourable picture of Somalia given by the British media. He hoped that his Government's new policies would receive more positive coverage.

I am copying this letter to Alex Allan (H.M. Treasury), Brian Hawtin (Ministry of Defence) and Myles Wickstead (Overseas Development Administration).

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(CHARLES POWELL)

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

**MAIN POINTS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE 4TH SESSION
OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SRSP.**

The Central Committee has resolved that the National Constitution be reviewed in such a way as to encourage the National Economic Development in General, to amend the article relating to the FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL, the sanctioning of the Audit General to keep a strict account and control of state property, and the creation of a High Level National Committee assigned to oversee the Reconstruction of the war-torn North, and to assist the inhabitants of that region overcome the Economic and Social destruction they have experienced in the aftermath of the War.

ON THE ECONOMY.

In order to speed up the National Economic Development, the Central Committee has resolved the following:

1. Decentralization and opening up for private participation the sectors of the Economy such as Banking, Insurance, Shipping, Port Services, Hides and Skins, Trade in Frankincense & Myrrh and Medical and Veterinary drugs, so as to create a healthy and constructively competitive free enterprise economy.
2. That the state owned economic agencies be reorganized allowing private sector share of ownership where this is considered economically viable.

ON PARTY AFFAIRS.

The Central Committee has resolved to streamline both regional and district administration with the objective of strengthening both party and Government Leadership. It is strictly recommended that only officials of the Highest ability and Academic calibre be appointed to Local District Councils.

ON NORTHERN SOMALIA.

The Central Committee resolved to accept the recommendation of the National Verbatim recommendations included:

1. To find a political solution for the problems of the North.
2. To extend the President's Amnesty to Somalis living abroad as well to those who are imprisoned in the country in connection with events arising from the war in the North.

3. Recommendation of full participation of the Government in the resettlement of the people displaced by the war.
4. To reconstruct the houses of the people that were destroyed.
5. Reactivate sources of living that were crippled, and revitalize essential public utility services such as water, Electricity, Banks and Hospitals.
6. Extension of Technical and Economic assistance to members of the public who are determined to revitalize both farming and industrial output.
7. To help the affected inhabitants of the Northern regions overcome the economic destruction that they have experienced and to facilitate Commercial activities which can serve reconstruction, Economic reactivation and improvement of public life.
8. The establishment of a special agency, with full Government authority responsible for the implementation of the reconstruction resolution.
- 9., To develop the sounding leadership and administration of the Northern regions, it has been recommended to nominate high ranking officials at national level.

ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

In the field of Human Rights, the Somali Democratic Republic is fully committed to the observation of the U.N. declaration on Human Rights as well as the Observation of the declaration of the OAU charter on Human Rights.

Along this context, the President of the SDR has appointed a Top-Level National Committee mandated to conduct a through investigation into all the aspects of Human Rights abuses. The President authorized the release of all political detainees and the pardoning of prison interness.

The President of the SDR has extended full unconditional Amnesty to all Somali citizens living abroad and has called unequivocally on all citizens within the country to capitalize on the President's extention of Amensty.

Along this line, Amnesty International has been invited to pay a visit to Somalia in April with a view to facilitate for them the opportunity of gathering on-the-spot facts and information of the Human Rights situation in Somalia.

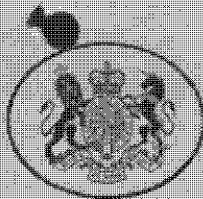
POINTS TO RAISE WITH SOMALI PRIME MINISTER

- (i) Welcome. Enquire after President Barre.
- (ii) You have had a full report on his meeting yesterday with the Foreign Secretary.
- (iii) Important to Somali's reputation and prospects of international help to tackle human rights situation and allow visits by International Red Cross.
- (iv) We shall want to see practical and effective results on human rights before we can review our

aid policy.

(v) We hope they will find ways to bring the fighting in the North to an end.

(vi) We are concerned by reports of increasing Libyan involvement. You welcome assurances to the Foreign Secretary yesterday that Somali is not intending to acquire chemical weapons from Libya.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 January 1989

Dear Charles,

Visit of Somali Prime Minister

In advance of Mr Samatar's call on the Prime Minister tomorrow afternoon, you may like to have an account of his meeting with the Foreign Secretary this afternoon.

Mr Samatar (who was long winded and who also insisted on using his Ambassador as interpreter) emphasised that the Somali Government were now committed to a political resolution of their problems with rebels in Northern Somalia. There may have been abuses of human rights (exaggerated in the West by bodies such as Amnesty International), but they were a thing of the past. He spoke at length about the steps recently taken by his Government to improve the human rights situation, to seek reconciliation with its opponents in Northern Somalia, and to liberalise the economy. He requested HMG to reverse their decisions on the suspension of new aid.

The Foreign Secretary welcomed the Somali Government's recent steps. He made it clear that we needed to see practical and effective results on human rights before we could review our aid policy. He encouraged Mr Samatar to have contacts with critics of his government while in Britain. If the Somali Government believed there was inaccurate reporting in the British media they should take up their concerns directly, as their Ambassador had already done in the case of The Independent.

The Foreign Secretary sought and received assurances that Somalia did not possess and was not intending to acquire chemical weapons from Libya or from anyone else.

Mr Samatar is clearly not used to setting out a case succinctly to a foreign government and he may feel even less comfortable when addressing a head of government. To avoid a repetition of this afternoon's presentation, the Prime Minister might wish to say at the outset that she has received a report on the Somali Prime Minister's meeting with the Foreign Secretary.

Yours aw,

Richard Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private SecretaryC D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE SOMALI PRIME MINISTER

You agreed to see briefly on Tuesday the Somali Prime Minister, who has come here at short notice and uninvited, bearing a message from President Barré.

You may remember that President Barré planned to visit Britain in June last year but had to cry off because of the serious fighting in the North. That fighting goes on and there have been disturbing reports of barbarities by the Somali authorities. As a result, we and the Americans have suspended some of our aid until the situation improves. The purpose of the Somali Prime Minister's visit, and the President's message, is no doubt to try to mend fences. He is also likely to complain - as did President Barré last year - about the activities of members of the Somali National Movement in Britain and about reporting by the BBC.

The points which you will want to get over:

- It is very important for Somali's reputation and prospects of receiving international help that they should tackle the human rights situation firmly and allow visits by the International Red Cross.
- We hope they will find ways to bring the fighting in the North to an end and negotiate with their opponents in the Somali National Movement.
- We understand that the presence in Britain of members of the Somali National Movement causes concern to the Somali Government. Provided they obey the law, there is nothing that the Government can do. But if any evidence came to light of terrorist activity being organised from this country we would take swift action.

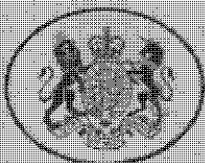
- We also hope that the Somali Government will pursue sensible economic policies including an informal agreement with the IMF.
- You might also express concern about reports of increasing Libyan involvement in Somalia.

The Foreign Secretary will see the Somali Prime Minister on Monday. I will let you have a note of any further points which arise as a result of that meeting.

C.D.?

Charles Powell

21 January 1989



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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Dear Charles,

Visit by Somali Prime Minister

I wrote to you on 17 January to forewarn you of a visit to this country by the Somali Prime Minister, Mr Mohamed Ali Samatar (personality note attached). He is now arriving on the morning of 23 January and will be accompanied by another Minister, Mr Hersi. Mr Samatar will be carrying a personal message for Mrs Thatcher from President Mohamed Said Barre.

The Foreign Secretary hesitates to ask the Prime Minister to see Mr Samatar, especially at such short notice. However, the level of the delegation and the growing publicity about the situation in Somalia suggest that a short call to receive President Barre's message would be justified. I understand that the Prime Minister could see Mr Samatar on 24 January at 4.30 pm.

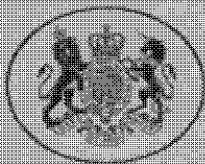
President Barre was due to visit this country in June 1988 but called off because of serious fighting in the north of Somalia. Subsequently he and Mrs Thatcher exchanged messages in August about Somali allegations that Britain was harbouring his opponents, the Somali National Movement, and allowing the BBC to put out hostile propaganda (copies enclosed).

The situation in northern Somalia is bad: many thousands of refugees have fled into neighbouring countries, and there have been reports of atrocities and other abuses of human rights by the Somali authorities. We have informed the Somali Government that we are suspending some of our future aid until we see improvements in the human rights situation and progress towards internal reconciliation. The Americans have taken similar steps.

The Somali intention is to mend fences with the West and explain their policies to deal with the country's problems (which on paper at least point in the right direction). Mr Samatar will probably also raise Somali National Movement activities here and BBC reporting. (The Prime Minister's reply in August 1988 contains our position on these complaints.) He may also ask for aid, which can only be considered when the situation improves.

/The

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The Prime Minister might like to set out our concern that the Somali Government should tackle the human rights situation, for example by allowing visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross. When the Foreign Secretary was in Djibouti earlier this month the President made a strong plea for our help in persuading the Somalis to provide the necessary conditions for international relief agencies to visit the Northern city of Hargeisa. We believe that they should also seek reconciliation with their opponents in the Somali National Movement. When the Foreign Secretary was in the region he was asked if we could urge moderation on the leaders of the Movement exiled in London. He explained that it would be difficult to influence them let alone act as any sort of mediator. The Somalis should also adopt sensible economic policies, including an informal agreement, (known as a shadow programme), with the IMF. In addition we are concerned about reports of increasing Libyan involvement in Somalia.

We believe it would do no harm to draw attention to these concerns, especially about human rights, in any briefing of the press.

The Foreign Secretary is due to see the Somali Prime Minister on Monday afternoon, 23 January, and we shall let you know as quickly as possible the line he adopts.

The Foreign Secretary is out of London today and he has not, therefore, seen this letter in draft. We shall show it to him over the weekend and let you know if he wishes to see any changes.

Yours ever,

Richard Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

47/ 20/1/89.

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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MOHAMED ALI SAMATAR (OR SAMANTAR) (SNA) (LIEUTENANT GENERAL)

Midgan - Tomal, Issa Mahamoud, Mijertain.

Prime Minister.

Born Kismayu 1931. Educated there and Mogadishu. Attended special course for Somali officer-cadets Italy 1954-56 and passed out top. Subsequently served with police in Somalia until 1960 when he joined Army. Took part in 1964 border fighting with Ethiopia as Chief of Staff in Northern Sector. Italian Staff College 1963 and staff course in USSR 1965-67. After the 1969 coup appointed Chairman of Committee for National Guidance and President of the National Censorship Board. Visited Libya November 1969. Appointed Commandant of the Army March 1970. Secretary of State for Defence March 1971 and Vice-President of the SRC July 1971. Promoted Major-General August 1973. Began to be described as First Vice-President of Somalia in September 1976. He lost his defence portfolio in April 1981 but was reappointed in March 1982. At the time it was widely believed that the President's objective in relieving all members of the SRC of their executive duties was to remove Samantar who had become too powerful. He was again thought by some to have lost power in June 1984 when a number of changes were made by the President in the Armed Forces, but his apparent lack of presidential ambition and tribal background probably make him the safest number two from the President's point of view. Appointed Prime Minister in February 1987, when Barre himself took on responsibility for defence matters.

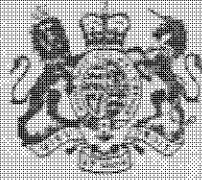
Following the President's accident in May 1986 he quickly asserted his role as senior Vice President and in association with Kulmie Afrah (qv) and Ahmed Suleiman (qv) took firm control of the country, confining the Army in Mogadishu to barracks and allegedly preventing the President's wife Khadija and one or more sons from attempting to assume power. Apparently Samantar behaved correctly and modestly during this period always referring to the President in his speeches. With the return of the President from hospital in Riyadh Samantar again withdrew from the limelight. If fully restored to health Siad Barre may again seek to vary the extent of Samantar's influence from time to time, perhaps under the influence of Ahmed Suleiman, but Samantar has emerged with considerable prestige and must be considered a realistic candidate in the succession to Siad Barre.

Did not seek at one time to disguise his role as principal pro-Soviet spokesman in the Government. He is primarily a soldier and his pro-Soviet stance was probably based mainly on the proven ability of the Soviets to train and equip the Somali Army.

Short and undistinguished in appearance. Able, shrewd, intelligent and with a sense of humour. He has overcome the handicap of having been born into a despised tribe of bondsmen though this could still bar him from the Presidency in many Somali eyes. Probably a leader of the 1969 coup and after it apparently one of the most active and vociferous progressives. There was an unsuccessful attempt to unseat him - probably by Ahmed Suleiman Abdalla (qv) during 1972.

Not too well disposed towards UK with which he has almost no connection though not through want of trying on our part. Frequently annoyed by the BBC Somali Service and UK unhelpfulness/disinterest in supplying or aiding the Somali Army.

He has eleven children. Speaks fluent Italian, Russian and adequate English.



JES 0201
10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Handwritten:
G.M.
C.P.S.
By Mrs. ...
for pleasure
C.P.S.

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 August 1988

Dear Mr. President

Thank you for your message, in which you brought to my attention your concern regarding the activities of Somali dissident movements in this country and the BBC Somali Service.

Let me make it clear right away that I too value good relations between Somalia and the United Kingdom. I was sorry that it proved impossible for you to visit London in June. I look forward to meeting you on another occasion.

I naturally regret the problems recurring in the northern part of your country, and the bloodshed, destruction and displacement of persons that have resulted.

You suggest that your opponents have organised their activities from London and that the BBC has offered them support. I have considered these concerns most seriously.

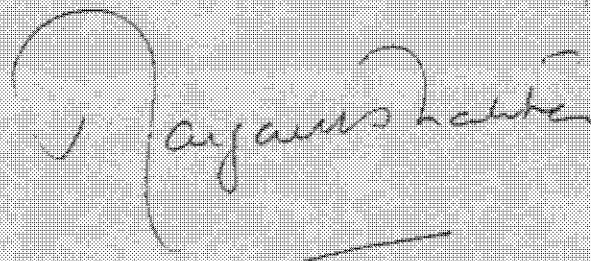
Britain has a long-standing tradition of offering asylum. Provided those concerned do not break UK law, they are at liberty to remain here. But our attitude to terrorism - from which we have so grievously suffered - is unequivocal. We condemn it absolutely, no matter who perpetrates it. We do not countenance terrorist activity being organised from this country. If evidence of such came to light, I can assure you that our authorities would take swift action.

I have noted your serious allegations about the BBC and some of the British mass media. The BBC External Services have an obligation to report events in an accurate and unbiased way. Although funded by Government grant, they are managerially and editorially independent. Your Ambassador may wish to put your concerns directly to the BBC. As an organisation with an international reputation to maintain, the BBC would, I am sure, investigate thoroughly any complaints of errors or bias made to them.

I should like to take this opportunity to mention my pleasure that you have personally given instructions to your armed forces to respect human rights in their current operations in Northern Somalia. As friends of Somalia, we attach great importance to the civilian population being spared avoidable suffering.

I hope it will prove possible very soon to reach a peaceful outcome to the problems in your country through reconciliation.

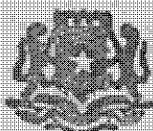
Yours sincerely


Raymond Hunt

His Excellency Major General Mohamed Siad Barre

JAMHUURIYADDA DIMUQ- SOOMAALIYA

MADAXWEYNAHA



SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

THE PRESIDENT

Excellency,

It is with honour that I avail myself of this opportunity to bring to your personal attention and that of H.M.'s Government a matter of serious concern to my Government which, unless expeditiously a remedial action is taken, could seriously harm the cordial relations between our two countries.

Before I address myself on this matter, I would like to seize this occasion to ponder over the close links that continue to bind together the two countries Somalia and Britain. Indeed, the two countries have enjoyed a fruitful cooperation based on the principles of mutual respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, non interference in the internal affairs of each other and promotion of cooperation and understanding.

As a result of this relationship, the British Government has carried out a number of projects in my country and contributed in multilateral economic programmes which are greatly appreciated. I would like to express our gratitude to the British Government for this valuable assistance and steady firm support.

Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher MP,
Prime Minister of United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland,
London

Excellency,

Somalia is a country which strive for a sustained economic development, self-sufficiency and better standard of living for its people despite the adverse international economic and financial situations. In pursuance of this development oriented policy, we have been able to overcome a number of obstacles and succeeded to accomplish a tangible progress.

However, it is regretable that while Somalia is engaged to face these challenges few disgrantled elements have been trying to retard the progress by disrupting peace and tranquility in the country. These terrorist elements have carried out destructive activities in killing innocent people and causing irrecurparable damages to property in Hargeisa in the North-Western region and Burao in Togdhere region of Somalia. The activities of these treacherous terrorists deserve nothing but condemnation of the international community at large. It must be pointed out emphatically that notwithstanding their activities this terrorist group has found heaven in Britain masquereding themselves as refugee while carrying out activities inconsistant with their refugee status as enshrined in 1951 convention and its protocol of 1967 thereby grossly abusing the British hospitality to the extend of engineering their hideous and subversive activities at their London based office and carrying out in the Somali Democratic Republic accross the provisional Administrative line separating Somalia from Ethiopia.

Excellency,

As it may be recalled, these terrorist group has been involved in the past few years in hijacking civilian airlines, abduction of foreign nationals, and destabilization acts against the Somali Democratic Republic. On 25 November 1984, the said terrorist group hijacked a Somali airlines enroute to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, forcibly diverting it to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The unscrupulous terrorists claimed full responsibility for the air piracy. This same group had abducted a French medical team who were engaged in a humanitarian work at the refugee camp at Togwajaale in Northern region. In Addition to the above, the same elements had undertaken desruptive activities against Somalia with the aim of creating confusion, bumper development efforts and disturb peace and stability in the country. The recent said developement in the Northern regions is a case in point.

Excellency,

We find it difficult to understand that the British Government which is well known for its anti-terrorist policy fails to take appropriate measures against the perpetrators of such abhorrent and hideous acts. What is more regretable is that the culprits of the above mentioned terrorist acts enjoy full protection, freedom of movements, the right to organize their sinister activities as well as a secure plateform to disseminate malicious and baseless propaganda against the Somali Democratic Republic.

Excellency,

We are also deeply disturbed about the credence and facilities the BBC and some of the British mass media extend to the terrorist group. Such facilities, not only provide support to these elements, but also confuses world public opinion on the situation prevailing in Somalia. In particular, the BBC has late become a tool of destructive campaigns of these terrorist groups. It also aims to sensitize British and world public opinion infavour of the bandits who have Committed untold crimes against their country and people. No doubt such negative mass media campaigns can only bring about serious misunderstanding and damage the friendly relations existing between the two countries.

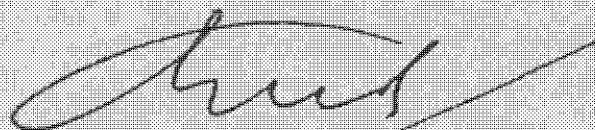
Excellency,

It is my conviction that such matters of serious concern deserve your personal and that of the British Government attention before they assume uncontrollable dimensions. In this connection, I kindly request the British Government to live up to its international obligation against the terrorist acts by taking appropriate measure with regard to the self-styled refugees. Similarly we request the British Government to look into the deceptive and slanderous probaganda against my country conducted by BBC and other British mass media.

Finally, I wish to reaffirm our determination to work

- 5 -

to sustain the cooperation between our two countries and hope that our genuine desire to strengthen the bonds of friendship would be reciprocated.

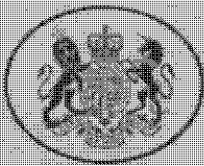
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mohamed Siad Barre', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(MOHAMED SIAD BARRE)

SOMALIA: March '92

visit by the President of Somalia

RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 January 1989

CR 17/1

Dear Charles,

Visit to London by the Somali Prime Minister

You should be aware that the Somali Prime Minister has said he wishes to make a visit to London as soon as possible, to explain the Somali Government's current policies. I enclose a copy of Mogadishu telno 24.

The Somali Prime Minister would continue to Washington and Ottawa. We are sounding out the Americans and the Canadians about how they are likely to receive him. We shall then submit advice by the end of the week.

Yours ever,

Richard Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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MDHIAN 8603

CONFIDENTIAL
FM MOGADISHU
TO DESKBY 160900Z FCO
TELNO D24
OF 150815Z JANUARY 88

MY TELNO D21: SOMALI PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT LONDON

1. I WAS TODAY SUMMONED BY THE ACTING PS OF THE MFA WHO ASKED ME TO CONVEY URGENTLY TO LONDON A REQUEST FROM HIS GOVERNMENT THAT HMG SHOULD RECEIVE AT THEIR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE A DELEGATION LED BY MOHAMED ALI SAMATAR. THE MINISTER OF MINERAL AND WATER RESOURCES, A NORTHERNER WITH ISSAQ SYMPATHIES AND A STRONG ADVOCATE OF RECONCILIATION (AND A SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL) WILL ACCOMPANY SAMATAR.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO EXPLAIN THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND TO HAVE FULL DISCUSSIONS OF CURRENT ISSUES AFFECTING OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND GOVERNMENTS. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT THE VISIT BY THEIR PRIME MINISTER - WHO WILL THEN GO TO WASHINGTON AND OTTAWA - IN HIS CAPACITY AS SPECIAL ENVOY OF PRESIDENT SIAD REFLECTS THE IMPORTANCE AND ESTEEM WHICH GOS ATTACH TO THEIR RELATIONS WITH UK. SAMATAR WILL BRING A WRITTEN PERSONAL MESSAGE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER FROM SIAD BARRE. I WAS REMINDED THAT THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF HAS BEEN DUE TO VISIT LONDON IN JUNE.

3. I REALISE THAT THIS REQUEST AS SHORT NOTICE IN TYPICAL SOMALI FASHION, WILL NOT BE PARTICULARLY WELCOME. I WAS ALSO LEFT IN NO DOUBT THAT ALTHOUGH DESCRIBED AS A 'WORKING VISIT' SAMATAR WOULD EXPECT TO BE RECEIVED, EVEN IF BRIEFLY, AT NO 10. ALSO AS NO DATES HAVE BEEN PROPOSED BY THE SOMALIS IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO PLEAD INDEFINATE ALTERNATIVE ENGAGEMENTS. AGAINST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH SUGGEST SOME DETERMINATION BY GOS TO IMPROVE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO SEEK POLITICAL SOLUTIONS, I HOPE THAT WE CAN AGREE TO THE VISIT NOW PROPOSED AND OFFER SOME POSSIBLE DATES. IT WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY BOTH TO REINTERATE OUR CONCERNS AND TO DEMONSTRATE OUR CONTINUED INTEREST IN SOMALIA AND ITS PROBLEMS.

VARCOE

YYYY

Richard

Richard

Has tel *AS 6-10-80*

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K. W.

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PS/MRS CHALKER
PS/MR EGGAR
PS/PUS
MR MUNRO
MR FAIRWEATHER
MR SLATER
MISS PESTELL

NNNN

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cc/jc



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 June 1988

Handwritten notes:
Tena
no
no
no

Dear Charles,

Call of Somali President on the Prime Minister

In your letter of 27 April, you said that the Prime Minister could see President Barre of Somalia on 7 June at 5 p.m. for one hour over tea.

The Somalis have just confirmed that President Barre will take up the offer. We know however that they have as yet made no practical arrangements (flights, hotel bookings or accompanying team). You may wish to bear in mind that there must be a real possibility that he will cancel at the last minute because of the recent escalation of insurgency in Northern Somalia, with fighting around the towns of Bargeisa and Burao. The present military situation is unclear. Since the original revolt occurred while the President and Defence Minister were abroad, President Barre may well want to be quite sure that things are under control before he travels again.

Handwritten notes:
rows over
L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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Visit by Robert

MARCH 12

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File
DA
ll

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

16 May 1988

VISIT OF PRESIDENT BARRE

I have seen a copy of Mogadishu telegram number 109 which records the Somali Government as wondering whether the Prime Minister could give a working lunch for President Barre on 7 or 8 June. I fear that both dates are impossible; 7 June is a Questions Day and the Prime Minister is already attending a long-planned lunch on 8 June. It would be best to stick to the arrangements we have already made.

(C.D. POWELL)

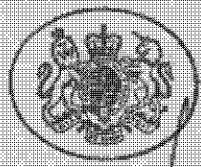
R.N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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ll

Order.

7 Jun - Series 2
Thanksgiving
anniversary



8 Jun - Pres Assists
Lund
Sij

~~And~~

as far as actually possible?

With the compliments of

EAST AFRICAN DEPARTMENT

(I don't think
it's desirable)

but it's
earlier to
read

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE,

LONDON, SW1A 2AH

impossibility
or

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015656
MDHIAN 9465

CONFIDENTIAL
FM MOGADISHU
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 109
OF 151005 Z MAY 88

FOR FAIRWEATHER (AUSS)

YOUR TELNO 97: VISIT OF PRESIDENT BARRE

1. THE PERMANENT SECRETARY AT MFA (FORMER AMBASSADOR IN LONDON AND THEREFORE UNDERSTANDING OF OUR SYSTEM) TODAY ASKED ME DISCREETLY TO CHECK WITH YOU THE POSSIBILITY OF SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S STOPOVER IN LONDON ON 7/8 JUNE.
2. THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFER OF A MEETING AT NUMBER 10 AT 1700 ON 7 JUNE IS MUCH APPRECIATED AND ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE. (THE PROBLEM APPEARS TO BE TO GET SATISFACTORY DATES FOR HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS IN OTHER EUROPEAN CAPITALS: BARRE WILL BE SEEING PRESIDENT REAGAN IN WASHINGTON AROUND 9/10 JUNE.) HOWEVER ADEN THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT POLITICALLY FOR THE PRESIDENT TO ATTEND A LUNCH HOSTED BY MRS CHALKER EVEN THOUGH SHE WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF THE OFFICE IN THE ABSENCE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE. ADEN REFERRED TO THE PRESIDENT'S LAST VISIT TO LONDON IN 1978 WHEN MR CALLAGHAN HAD HELD ONE HOUR'S DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWED BY A SHORT WORKING-LUNCH AT NUMBER 10. IF A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT COULD BE OFFERED FOR EITHER 7 OR 8 JUNE, THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT WOULD BE VERY PLEASED. I POINTED OUT THE LIKELY TIME-TABLE CONSTRAINTS BUT UNDERTOOK TO FORWARD THE REQUEST.
3. ADEN MADE CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO LOSE THE OFFER OF A 1700 MEETING WITH THE PM. BUT HE ASKED WHETHER IF THE PM COULD NOT OFFER A LUNCH THEN IF THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD BE BACK IN LONDON ON 8 JUNE, WOULD HE BE AVAILABLE TO HOST A LUNCH ON THAT DAY? THE PRESIDENT COULD DELAY HIS DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK UNTIL THAT EVENING.
4. IT WILL BE A PITY IF THE SOMALIS STAND ON THEIR DIGNITY AND TURN DOWN A LUNCH OFFERED BY MRS CHALKER BUT I CAN IN PART UNDERSTAND THEIR PROTOCOL/POLITICAL RESERVATIONS. WHILST I DOUBT WHETHER THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE ABLE TO OFFER ANYTHING ADDITIONAL, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME UP-GRADING OF THE PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION COULD BE EXPLORED.

CONFIDENTIAL

015656
MDHIAN 9465

ADEN HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO US IN RECENT MONTHS AND
I THINK WE OWE IT TO HIM TO DO OUR BEST - EQUALLY I AM SURE HE
WILL UNDERSTAND IF WE HAVE TO SETTLE FOR A CALL AT NUMBER 10
AND NOTHER MORE.

VARCOE

YYYY

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PS/MRS CHALKER
PS/PUS
MR FAIRWEATHER

NNNN

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S/W

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

27 April 1988

PRESIDENT BARRE OF SOMALIA

Thank you for your letter of 26 April with the suggestion that President Barre might meet the Prime Minister on his way to or from the United Nations Special Disarmament Session in June.

The Prime Minister could see President Barre for about an hour at 1700 on Tuesday 7 June, and could give him tea. We have gone through the diary carefully but I am afraid there are no possibilities for either lunch or dinner in the period suggested.

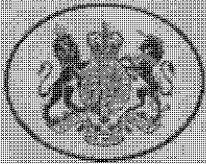
(C. D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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A handwritten signature, possibly 'Lyn Parker', written in the bottom right corner of the page.

500
1



Spec
Tues 7 June

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

Y
10 m

26 April 1988

Ria Austin
Agree in principle
to see him?

CDP
27/4

Dear Charles,

President Barre of Somalia

The Somali Embassy have asked whether President Barre could have a meeting with the Prime Minister on his way to, or from, the United Nations Special Disarmament Session. They have given a wide range of dates (1-10 or 15-28 June) and are clearly very keen that a meeting should take place.

The Foreign Secretary hopes that the Prime Minister will be able to find the time to see President Barre. Barre has personally ensured the pro-Western policies of Somalia since he expelled Soviet advisers in 1978. A meeting would be an opportunity to show the Somalis that we attach importance to their stance on East/West questions and regional issues. It would gratify President Moi, who you will recall mentioned to the Prime Minister in Kenya his worries regarding Somalia's pro-Western alignment after Barre goes.

Barre is well into his seventies and had a serious car accident in 1986. As a result of that we postponed an invitation for an official visit to London which we were planning to offer him at the time. He has since made a remarkable recovery. A very short unofficial visit to London in June, with a call on the Prime Minister, would serve well our aim of maintaining bilateral political support for Somalia without involving an increase in our planned representation there. President Barre has told our Ambassador on several occasions how much he admires Mrs Thatcher and hopes to meet her. Mrs Chalker had a successful visit to Somalia in April 1987 and the Princess Royal visited this year, primarily on Save the Children Fund business.

If the Prime Minister agrees with the Foreign Secretary's recommendation, I should be grateful if you would let me know what dates might be possible.

Yours ever

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

Somalia

GR 125

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MT

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FM WASHINGTON 120109Z MAR 82
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 835 OF 11 MARCH
INFO IMMEDIATE MOGADISHU

YOUR TELNO 475; PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE

1. WE SPOKE TO THE SOMALI AMBASSADOR, EMPHASIZING THAT IT WAS STILL POSSIBLE FOR THE VISIT TO TAKE PLACE. IF IT DID, YOU WOULD WISH TO INVITE THE PRESIDENT TO LUNCH ON 22 MARCH. THE PROGRAMME WOULD INCLUDE A CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER THAT AFTERNOON.
2. THE AMBASSADOR, HAVING CONSULTED THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT UNDERSTOOD THAT BECAUSE OF HER MAJESTY'S PRIOR COMMITMENTS, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO MAKE A COURTESY CALL ON THE QUEEN ON THIS OCCASION. THE PRESIDENT FELT, THEREFORE, THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO MAKE HIS VISIT ON ANOTHER OCCASION.
3. WE ARE STILL TRYING TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE PRESIDENT STILL INTENDS TO TRANSIT THROUGH LONDON.

HENDERSON

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SIR. L. ALKINSON

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Carline

We did say that the S.A. would

77 ~~Wages~~

for a small meeting - brief.

Incident, 1 letter per side + private
meetings. X

Somalia

A.S.C.

Time Read from Protocol
req. of the President
comes, he will be
bringing with him 5
minutes. Also we
feeling him that only
his Ambassador can
accompany him to
Maha.

OK?

Q.

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S. Stephens

5 March 1982

Visit by President of Somalia

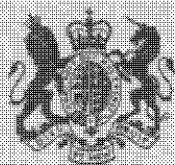
Thank you for your letter of 4 March.

The Prime Minister has agreed to receive President Siad Barre from 1530 - 1600 hours on 22 March.

A J COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

W



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

President of Somalia

On 22 April you are having
Calls from 1100 with Ms. Gandhi,
giving her hand and going to the
Festival Hall with her in the
evening.

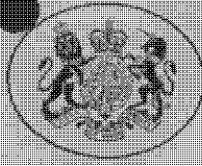
2. Are you willing to use the
President of Somalia from 1530 to
1600? W M You not

3. Or would you prefer us politely
to decline?

A.J.C. $\frac{4}{3}$

RESTRICTED

1. CS
3 MC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 March 1982

15.30 - 16.00
on 22nd March
J

Dear John,

Visit by President of Somalia

We now know that the President of Somalia Major-General Mohamed Siad Barre, will be in the United Kingdom from 20-23 March. He will be travelling from the US, where he will have been on an official visit at the invitation of the President; and going on to Paris where he will be received by President Mitterrand. He may then go on to Bonn, where he may be seen by Chancellor Schmidt and Herr Genscher. The Somalis have indicated that the President would very much like the opportunity for a talk with the Prime Minister on Monday 22 March if this were at all possible.

We realise that this is a singularly difficult time for the Prime Minister, coinciding as it does with the visit by Mrs Gandhi. If, however, the Prime Minister were able to spare any time on that day to receive President Siad Barre we believe that it would be time well spent. The President has not previously met the Prime Minister and, given Somalia's pro-Western stance, there would be considerable merit in a meeting on this occasion. Lord Carrington proposes to give him lunch on the same day.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing St

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Grey Scale #13

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