

Confidential Filing

PMS call on Shaikh Rashid of Dubai

DUBAI

UK | Dubai relations

June 1981

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3006

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
19.6.81							
27.7.81							
26.8.81							
19.5.83							
14.5.84							
27.8.86							
Part 1 Closed							
PREM 19/3267							

SERIES CLOSED

**END OF
CONSERVATIVE
ADMINISTRATION**

1 MAY 1997

RESTRICTED

W2CIP



o/c

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 August 1986

B-CAL AIRBUS

The Prime Minister has seen Dubai telegram no. 122 of 24 August. She was concerned to read about Shaikh Mohammed's letter of 24 August, and has commented that his criticism is a very serious one. She would like to be kept closely informed of any further developments on this.

Mark Addison

Colin Budd Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

RESTRICTED

dg

Restricted

RESTRICTED
FM DUBAI
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 122
OF 240855Z AUGUST 86
INFO PRIORITY ABU DHABI

Five Minute

*I wish to be kept informed
urgently. This is a very serious
situation
not*

B-CAL AIRBUS

1. SHAIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID SENT A LETTER ON 24 AUGUST TO
MICHAEL TAIT. IT WAS SIGNED BY SHAIKH MOHAMMED AND THE TEXT IS
AS FOLLOWS:

YOUR EXCELLENCY

AT OUR LAST MEETING YOU REQUESTED THE GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI TO DELAY
THE DEPARTURE OF AN AIRCRAFT WHICH YOU SAID HAD BEEN SOLD MIS-
TAKENLY BY BRITISH CALEDONIAN.

PERMISSION WAS GIVEN FOR THE AIRCRAFT TO STAGE FOR A SHORT TIME
ONLY. INFACT THE AIRCRAFT REMAINED IN DUBAI FOR ALMOST TWO
MONTHS DURING WHICH TIME YOU WERE FREQUENTLY REQUESTED TO
PRODUCE EVIDENCE OR INFORMATION TO SUPPORT YOUR REQUEST.

NO SUCH EVIDENCE OR INFORMATION HAS BEEN PRODUCED AND THE AIRCRAFT
HAS LEFT.

I WISH YOU TO KNOW THAT I AM DISAPPOINTED OVER YOUR HANDLING OF
THE MATTER WHICH HAS PLACED THE GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI IN AN INVIDIOUS
POSITION IN RELATION TO ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

I WISH YOU TO CONVEY MY DISAPPOINTMENT TO YOUR GOVERNMENT.
MOHAMMED BIN RASHID

2. THIS REPRESENTS A FORCEFUL REACTION TO THE B-CAL AFFAIR FROM
THE GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI AND DOUBTLESS REFLECTS THE DEGREE OF
POLITICAL CREDIT WHICH IT HAS COST US. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR
INSTRUCTIONS ON THE APPROPRIATE REPLY TO SEND TO SHAIKH MOHAMMED.

DAVISON
DKABAN 1552

LIBYA - SALE OF EX-BCAL AIRBUS TO LIBYA

LIMITED
MAED
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ECD(E)
EC PRESIDENCY SEC.
TRED
ERD
ECONOMIC ADVISERS
PLANNING STAFF
ESSD

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PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR EGGAR
PS/MR RENTON
PS/PUS
MR LONG
MR SLATER
MR DEREK THOMAS
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SIR J. FREELAND

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MR BOWDER, AIR 2A, DTI

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FCO

SH



cc: SPC.

cc: Caroline Ryder.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 May, 1984

Invitation to Crown Prince of
Abu Dhabi

Thank you for your letter of 10 May.

BT
The Prime Minister could offer 18 July or 4 September for talks and lunch with Shaikh Khalifa. I enclose a letter of invitation which has been signed by the Prime Minister and should be grateful if you would arrange for its delivery.

A J COLES

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

CONFIDENTIAL

CSF.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

14 May 1984

Your Highness

It is now three years since I had the pleasure of visiting Abu Dhabi. I remember that visit as a particularly valuable and enjoyable one and I was very pleased to have the opportunity to invite you to pay an official visit to Britain.

I know only too well how difficult it is to fit such visits into a crowded schedule but, with summer approaching, I wonder whether this might be a suitable moment to renew my invitation. It would give me great pleasure to see you again, and if you have plans to visit Europe this summer, I very much hope you will consider a two or three day official programme in London.

There are a number of important subjects of concern to us both on which it would be most useful to exchange views. If there are places you would particularly like to visit or things you would like to do, we should be happy to make arrangements.

I have asked our Ambassador to suggest some possible dates.

With warm and respectful greetings

Yours sincerely
Nayant Shah

HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, KCMG

FILED *RM*
cc: FRO
SAC

see P.C. ①

CONFIDENTIAL



Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Agree to offer Shaikh Khalifa London SW1A 2AH

18 July or 4 September for talks
and lunch: if so, agree attached message?
A.S.C. 1/5.

10 May 1984

Yes
no

Dear John,

Prime Ministerial Invitation to Shaikh Khalifa, Crown
Prince of Abu Dhabi

The Prime Minister invited Shaikh Khalifa to pay a visit to the UK when she visited Abu Dhabi in April 1981. She also expressed the hope that she would have the opportunity to see him again in the not too distant future when she wrote to him in February 1983 to thank him for Abu Dhabi's decision to purchase 12 Hawk aircraft (a contract worth £98 million). Although he has paid one or two private visits to the UK in the interim, he has never sought to take up this official invitation.

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OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

TEMPORARILY REVIEWED
S. Gray
31/3/2017

Like

Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, he is a man we need to cultivate both for present commercial and defence sales opportunities and for the future, as his signature of the Hawk contract underlined. Furthermore, despite numerous high level visits to the UAE in recent years, there have been no similar official visits in this direction: it would be useful to correct this imbalance. (Shaikh Zaid is due to pay a State Visit to the UK in return for his hospitality to The Queen in 1979, but he is unlikely to receive an invitation for at least another two years.)

We therefore recommend that the Prime Minister should write to Shaikh Khalifa renewing her invitation and proposing a visit in July or August (when Shaikh Khalifa usually travels to Europe) lasting two or three days. I realise, however, that both these months are likely to be difficult and it would be worth considering September as well. Apart from a call on the Prime Minister and/or lunch, the programme should include high level attention from the MOD and, if possible, some hospitality from the Royal Family.

/There is

CONFIDENTIAL

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There is no guarantee that Shaikh Khalifa would accept the invitation, at least on the dates proposed (this was also, you will remember, the case with Prince Abdullah), but we have had no success in persuading him to put forward dates on his own initiative and we would gain credit from having proffered the invitation.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

Dubai: UK Relations 6/81



~~SECRET~~

cc Mather
eps

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copy to No. 10.
for O.S. FCO (Mr Gaffin)
Rm 21.WH.

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE**
SERIAL No. 5688/83

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UCCCC
:TCC789346448+
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46448 DBGVOT EM
297711 PRDRME G

Wh 103
MED

TO HIS HIGHNESS SHAIKH RASHID BIN SAID AL MAKTOUM THE RULER'S
OFFICE, DUBAI.

ON BEHALF OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT I SHOULD LIKE TO EXTEND TO
YOUR HIGHNESS AND TO YOUR FAMILY MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY ON THE SAD
OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF HER HIGHNESS SHAIKHA LATIFAH.
MARGARET THATCHER.

NNNN

SENT AT 0407/20 BW
46448 DBGVOT EM
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file
Brc



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 May 1983

Dubai

Thank you for your letter of 18 May.

The Prime Minister has agreed to send a message of condolence to the Ruler of Dubai on the death of his wife. We have arranged for this to be telexed direct.

A. J. COLBY

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

A

010



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 May 1983

Prime Minister:

Agree to send message?

JH
18/5

Dear John,

Dubai

Shaikha Latifah, the wife of Shaikh Rashid, the Ruler of Dubai, died in hospital in London this morning after a long illness. In view of Shaikh Rashid's courtesy to the Prime Minister during her visit to the United Arab Emirates in 1981, where he was an assiduous host despite his own illness, the Prime Minister may like to send a message of condolence.

Our Ambassador has recommended that this be telexed direct to the Ruler's Office in Dubai. I attach a draft telex and the telex address.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

telex sent 19/5.5re.

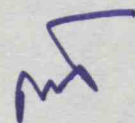
DSR 11C

Telex number: 46448 A/B DB GOVT

To: His Highness Shaikh Rashid bin Said al Maktoum
The Ruler's Office
Dubai

'On behalf of the British Government I should like to extend to Your Highness and to your family my deepest sympathy on the sad occasion of the death of Her Highness Shaikha Latifah.

Margaret Thatcher. '



Seen by ^{Duba:}

WR

26/8/81

Mr. Pattison

I don't know whether there is any need to reply to this letter from the Fco about Sheikh Rashid. Flowers were sent to him on 20 Aug., with a card signed by the P.M.

J.

26/8.

Prime Minister



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

MAF
14/VIII

MB

14 August 1981

Mike Pattison Esq,
Private Secretary,
10, Downing Street.

Please send some
flowers. not
Sent on
20/8.
J.

Dear Pattison

As you may have heard, Sheikh Rashid of Dubai is back in London for medical treatment following a further relapse of some kind. We made polite enquiries on Mr Hurd's behalf, and as a result Sheikh Rashid received Mr Hurd at the Wellington Hospital yesterday evening. Mr Hurd said that the Prime Minister was out of London but had asked him to convey her personal good wishes to Sheikh Rashid for a complete recovery. Sheikh Rashid expressed his thanks.

Although there had been gloomy stories about a serious decline in his health, Sheikh Rashid seemed to Mr Hurd roughly the same as in April during the Prime Minister's visit to the UAE., i.e. tired and conserving his energy, but still alert. His son, Sheikh Mohammed, who was present, told Mr Hurd afterwards that his father was now more obedient to the doctors. The family were hoping to keep him in London for some time yet as it was only here that he could properly rest.

Yours ever
Stephen Lamport

S M J Lamport
PS/Mr Hurd

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14 AUG 1981



SUBJECT

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c.f.w

10 DOWNING STREET

Dubai

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 July 1981

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 108/81**

Your Highness,

c. Master
O/S

I was very pleased to have the opportunity of calling on Your Highness last month as you were on your way to the United States. I hope that following your medical treatment you are feeling in better health.

On my return from Canada I learned that you are once again in England, and I send Your Highness my warmest good wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

Yours sincerely,

MT

CS

His Highness Rashid Bin Sa'id Al Maktoum, G.C.M.G.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Type for PM's signature

London S.W.1

23 July 1981

Dear Michael

The Ruler of Dubai

The Prime Minister called on Shaikh Rashid, the Ruler of Dubai, on 19 June, when he was on his way to the USA for medical treatment. After a brief stop-over on his way back to Dubai from the USA earlier this month, he has once more returned to the UK. This time he expects to be here for four to five days undergoing more medical examination, before returning to Dubai next Sunday or Monday. He will be staying either at (where the Prime Minister called on him) or else at a house of the UAE Ambassador, Mr Mahdi Tajir, in Surrey.

The Prime Minister's call on Shaikh Rashid last month was greatly appreciated in Dubai. But we do not think that it would be necessary to repeat the gesture on this occasion. Shaikh Rashid, whom the Prime Minister found to be in poor health at her call last month, is still sick. Moreover, we are now in Ramadan, the month in which Muslims abstain from all food and drink during daylight hours. In the circumstances a message, with a gift of fruit and flowers, would be sufficient. I enclose a draft.

Yours over

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(B J P Fall)
 Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
 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

HH SHAIKH RASHID BIN SA'ID AL
MAKTOUM GCMG

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SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

I was very pleased to have the opportunity of calling on Your Highness last month as you were on your way to the United States. I hope that following your medical treatment you are feeling in better health.

CAVEAT.....

On my return from Canada I learned that you are once again in England, and I send Your Highness my warmest good wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

Typed 23/7

Enclosures—flag(s).....



9 2 III 1981



CONFIDENTIAL



JS

76

Dubai

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 June 1981

Dear Francis,

SHAIKH RASHID

This is simply to record the fact that the Prime Minister paid a call on Shaikh Rashid of Dubai at his house in Eaton Square this afternoon. Shaikh Rashid looked extremely unwell. Nothing of moment was said in the course of the conversation. The Prime Minister did not raise any bilateral questions.

Yours ever

Michael Alexander

Francis Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 June 1981

Dear Michael,

Prime Minister's Call on Shaikh Rashid of Dubai

The Prime Minister is calling on Shaikh Rashid of Dubai at 4.30 this afternoon at his house at London SW1.

Sir John Graham met Shaikh Rashid this morning on his arrival at Heathrow Airport and found him looking fairly frail. He feels that Shaikh Rashid may not be in a condition to discuss some of the matters of substance we have to raise with the Dubai authorities, such as ECGD cover for loans to the Dubai Aluminium Smelter. (Sir John has arranged to discuss these instead at an early date with the UAE Ambassador, Mr Mahdi Tajir.) The Prime Minister will doubtless wish to make it more of a courtesy call.

Nevertheless, she may wish to discuss with Shaikh Rashid some of the following subjects:-

Shaikh Rashid's health. This is the presumed reason for his trip to the USA, for which he leaves at 8.00 am on Sunday. Both Shaikh Rashid and his entourage are reluctant to go into details about what exactly is wrong with him, but will welcome enquiries after his health in general.

King Khalid's visit. The Prime Minister will no doubt wish to give a personal account of this successful visit.

The Sultan of Oman. The Prime Minister may wish to tell Shaikh Rashid, whose relations with the Sultan of Oman are good, that the Sultan is here on a private visit. He attended the Trooping of the Colour and Royal Ascot. The Secretary of State is due to call on him next Wednesday.

Iran. Shaikh Rashid's main interest in non-Gulf affairs is Iran, with which Dubai has very close trading links. The Prime Minister could ask for Rashid's assessment of what is likely to happen in Iran after the downfall of President Bani Sadr.

Yours ever,

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

M O D'B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

Grey Scale #13



A 1 2 3 4 5 6 **M** 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 **B** 17 18 19

