

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T251-183 CONFIDENTIAL

OPV
u. Master Subject: SAUDI ARABIA,
TOP COPY UK Telus.
Nov. 79

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DD 240600Z JEDDA

GRS 364

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FM FCO 232330Z DEC 83

TO IMMEDIATE JEDDA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 479 OF 23 DECEMBER

ROLLS ROYCE - SA^UUDIA

MRC 185/58.		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. CO		
25 DEC 1983		
DESK OFFICER		REPLY
EX	PA	Action Taken

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO KING FAHD.

AFTER GREETING

I WAS MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR MAJESTY'S KIND MESSAGE WHICH OUR SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY BROUGHT BACK FROM HIS INSTRUCTIVE VISIT TO YOUR KINGDOM.

I HAVE LEARNED FROM HIM THAT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE PURCHASE OF TEN FURTHER BOEING 747 AIRCRAFT FOR YOUR NATIONAL AIRLINE, AND THAT ROLLS-ROYCE LIMITED IS ONE OF THE TWO POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS OF ENGINES. I UNDERSTAND THAT A DECISION ON THE CHOICE OF ENGINE MANUFACTURER MAY BE VERY CLOSE, AND THAT THIS DECISION MAY NOT BE IN ROLLS-ROYCE'S FAVOUR EVEN THOUGH A TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT OF THEIR PRODUCT HAS YET TO BE MADE. SAUDIA IS ONE OF ROLLS-ROYCE'S MOST VALUED OVERSEAS CUSTOMERS. I THEREFORE WISHED TO WRITE DIRECTLY TO YOUR MAJESTY TO UNDERLINE HOW IMPORTANT THE CONTINUANCE OF THIS RELATIONSHIP IS TO ROLLS-ROYCE, AND TO ASK THAT THEY BE INVITED TO MAKE A TECHNICAL PRESENTATION TO THE AIRLINE. THE LATEST VERSION OF THE ROLLS-ROYCE ENGINE, THE RB211-524D4, HAS NOT YET BEEN ANALYSED BY SAUDIA, AND I AM SURE THAT THE AIRLINE WILL BE IMPRESSED BY ITS EXCELLENCE. THE CHAIRMAN OF ROLLS-ROYCE, SIR WILLIAM DUNCAN, WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO VISIT YOUR KINGDOM AT AN EARLY DATE FOR THIS PURPOSE. I DO HOPE THAT YOUR MAJESTY WILL BE WILLING TO GIVE THIS SUGGESTION FAVOURABLE CONSIDERATION.

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ON A SEPARATE MATTER, MAY I SAY THAT I AM DELIGHTED THAT OUR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY AND OUR SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE WILL BE VISITING YOUR KINGDOM SHORTLY. I HOPE THAT THESE VISITS WILL FORM PART OF A PATTERN OF FREQUENT MINISTERIAL CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE GRAVE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. MOREOVER, THERE IS AN EAST/WEST ASPECT OF THE SITUATION IN THE LEBANON WHICH WE CANNOT IGNORE. IN SUCH DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS TIMES I THINK IT IS OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE THAT LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES SHOULD MEET FREQUENTLY AND TAKE COUNSEL TOGETHER SO THAT WE MAY BE BETTER ABLE TO DEFEND AND FURTHER THOSE THINGS IN WHICH WE BELIEVE.

I SEND, YOUR MAJESTY, MY DEEPEST RESPECTS AND WARM REGARDS TO YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY.

HOWE

LIMITED

MAED

MED

TRED

NAD

PS

PS/MR. LUCE

PS/MR. WHITNEY

PS/PUS

SIR. J. LEAHY

MR. ADAMS