

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

SAUDI ARABIA: TORNADO

At the end of Prince Bandar's meeting with the Prime Minister this morning, the Prince said that he hoped shortly to convey to the Prime Minister King Fahd's reply to her earlier message, in which he would deal with the question of Tornado. It was important to get this tied up. He could fully understand that the Ministry of Defence needed some sort of guarantee before they could enter into certain commitments. The next step was to get a signature on a contract. But the Saudis would like to keep this secret until their problems with the United States Congress over the supply of American weapons was resolved. The Prime Minister said that we had preserved absolute security on this matter so far and would continue to do so.

It was subsequently agreed that Prince Bandar would visit London again on 25 February to deliver King Fahd's message.

EDP

C.D. POWELL

18 February 1985