



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
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MO 5/3/3

9th August 1985

TEMPORARILY RETAINED. J. Gray 8/7/2014

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Dear Tim,

SAUDI ARABIA - TORNADO

The Prime Minister has kindly agreed to see Prince Bandar Bin Sultan at 10am on Monday morning. The Prime Minister will recall that the Prince last saw her on 7th June on which occasion the Prime Minister handed to him her letter to King Fahd expressing positive support for the potential purchase of Tornado by Saudi Arabia.

I am afraid that the amount of information we have as to Prince Bandar's reasons for wishing to call upon the Prime Minister at such short notice is sketchy. We understand that he is going to deliver King Fahd's reply to the Prime Minister's letter; that this reply contains good news and that it will not require an immediate detailed answer. Our assumption (which cannot be guaranteed) is that the letter will confirm the Saudi intent to buy the Tornado (and probably also the Hawk) and that detailed arrangements between the two Governments will need to be worked out by officials.

If our reading of the intentions behind the Prince's call upon the Prime Minister is correct, the Prime Minister will no doubt wish to thank Prince Bandar for taking the trouble to deliver the King's letter personally; to express the satisfaction of HMG at the intention of Saudi Arabia to acquire the Tornado (and the Hawk); to emphasise the importance which we attach to this sale, and to say that we will do all that we can to assist in the early conclusion of a contract, and the successful introduction into service and operation of the aircraft.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Peter Ricketts (FCO).

Yours ever,

Dennis

(D BRENNAN)