

SUBJECT



file

cc to  
Ops

VB

10 DOWNING STREET

Security

THE PRIME MINISTER

5 March 1982

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 37/82

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your kind message about the recent hijacking incident.

We were delighted that it was brought to a satisfactory end without injury or loss of life. Many people played a part in this success but, as you recognised in your message to the Chief Constable of the Essex Constabulary, most of the credit must go to the Essex Police.

Thank you for the prompt cooperation and assistance offered by the Tanzanian authorities throughout the affair. In particular, your High Commissioner, Mr. Nyakyi, was most helpful to the negotiators at Stansted airport. He has continued to give every assistance in the aftermath. Please convey my personal thanks and those of Her Majesty's Government to all concerned.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd)

MT

His Excellency Mwalimu Dr. Julius K. Nyerere

BK



508

4

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 March 1982

TANZANIA: HIJACKING

Thank you for your letter of 4 March.

The Tanzanian High Commissioner duly called on the Prime Minister this morning and delivered the original version of President Nyerere's message of 1 March to Mrs. Thatcher. After the meeting I handed the Prime Minister's reply to Mr. Nyaki and requested him to arrange for its delivery. A copy of the Prime Minister's reply is enclosed.

The conversation during the call, which lasted for 15 minutes, was concerned exclusively with the hijacking incident. I should record that the High Commissioner said that he wished, following his call on the Lord Privy Seal yesterday, to repeat his Government's assurance that they would take no action against the families of the hijackers and would, insofar as this was in their power, ensure they were protected from any action by others in Tanzania.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

4 March 1982

Agree to see him at  
12.30 on Friday, 5 March  
for 15 minutes and to  
sign attached message?

Dear John,

Yes  
mt

Tanzania : Hijacking

You will already have seen the texts of two personal messages of gratitude and congratulations on the successful outcome of the Tanzanian hijacking incident from President Nyerere of Tanzania to the Prime Minister and to the Chief Constable of Essex. I enclose copies for ease of reference.

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

The Tanzanian High Commissioner, Mr Nyakyi, has been instructed to deliver these messages personally and has asked if it would be possible to call briefly on the Prime Minister to deliver the message to her.

We hope that, if this can be fitted in, the Prime Minister will agree to see Mr Nyakyi very briefly. He personally played a valuable role throughout the incident and of course went to Stansted to talk to the hijackers. He also helped with the arrangements for the Tanzanian passengers during their temporary stay in the UK. It would be an opportunity for the Prime Minister to express her personal thanks to Mr Nyakyi for his help and cooperation.

There would also be advantage in the Prime Minister replying briefly to President Nyerere's message. A call by the High Commissioner would be an opportunity to hand over the reply with a request that it be passed to his President. I enclose a draft.

Yours ever

*John Holmes*

J E Holmes  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
No 10 Downing Street  
LONDON

DRAFT: ~~minute/letter/teletype/despatch/note~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: The Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO: His Excellency Mwalimu Dr Julius K Nyerere President of the United Republic of Tanzania

Your Reference

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:

~~I write to~~ Thank you for your kind message about the recent hijacking incident.

~~Like you,~~ <sup>delighted</sup> ~~we were pleased~~ <sup>was brought</sup> that it ~~could be brought~~ to a satisfactory end without injury or loss of life. <sup>His Majesty King people played a part in this success</sup> Although obviously it was a team effort, <sup>but, as you recognized in</sup> ~~most of the credit must go to the Essex police~~ and I ~~was therefore glad to see your message to the Chief Constable of the Essex Constabulary,~~ <sup>most of the credit must go to the Essex Police.</sup>

<sup>Thank</sup> I should like to take this opportunity to thank you for the prompt cooperation and assistance offered by the Tanzanian authorities throughout the affair. In particular, your High Commissioner, Mr Nyakyi, was most helpful to the negotiators at Stansted airport. ~~and he~~ has continued to give

/every

Enclosures—flag(s).....

every assistance in the aftermath. Please  
convey my <sup>personal</sup> thanks and those of Her Majesty's  
Government to all concerned.

*M* 4/13.

Security

SUBJECT

GRS 450  
RESTRICTED  
DESKBY 021000Z  
FM DAR ES SALAAM 020735Z MAR 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TEL NO 071 OF 02 MARCH 1982

RESTRICTED  
PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 36/82

MIPT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NYERERE  
TO THE PRIME MINISTER

vc. master set  
opt

DEAR MRS. THATCHER,  
I WRITE TO EXPRESS MY OWN VERY DEEP APPRECIATION  
AND THANKS, AS WELL AS THAT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND  
PEOPLE OF TANZANIA, TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND TO  
THE BRITISH POLICE FOR THE ACTIONS WHICH BROUGHT TO  
A SATISFACTORY END THE HI-JACKING OF THE TANZANIAN PLANE.

YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THE ANXIETY AND THE FEELING OF  
HELPLESSNESS HERE WHEN WE HEARD THAT THE PLANE HAD BEEN  
TAKEN OVER. WE REALISED THAT WE WERE ENTIRELY DEPENDENT  
UPON THE GOODWILL AND THE CAPACITY OF THOSE COUNTRIES  
WHERE THE HI-JACKERS CHOSE TO LAND. WHEN THERE SEEMED TO  
BE A POSSIBILITY THAT THEY WOULD FORCE THE PLANE TO COME  
TO BRITAIN, I THEREFORE CALLED SIR PETER MOON, YOUR HIGH  
COMMISSIONER HERE, TO ASK FOR BRITISH HELP. BEFORE I  
COULD DO SO HE ASSURED ME THAT BRITAIN WOULD BRING THE  
HI-JACK TO AN END. I DID APPRECIATE THIS IMMEDIATE  
GESTURE.

EVEN SO, HI-JACKERS ARE UNPREDICTABLE. I WOULD  
THEREFORE LIKE TO PAY A VERY GENUINE TRIBUTE TO  
MR. WILLIAM WHITELAW WHO TOOK OVERALL CHARGE OF THE  
OPERATION AND PREPARED FOR ANY EVENTUALITY. I WOULD ALSO  
LIKE TO PAY A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT BUNYARD, THE  
CHIEF CONSTABLE OF THE ESSEX POLICE, AND ALL THOSE WHO  
WORKED UNDER HIS DIRECTION. IT WAS A TREMENDOUS  
ACHIEVEMENT TO PERSUADE THE HI-JACKERS TO RELEASE ALL THE  
HOSTAGES, AND FINALLY TO SURRENDER THEMSELVES WITHOUT  
DAMAGING THE PLANE. I REALISE THE STRAIN THAT MUST HAVE  
BEEN FELT BY ALL THOSE AT STANSTED AIRPORT THROUGHOUT  
THEIR LONG NEGOTIATIONS WITH THESE UNKNOWN BUT ARMED  
INDIVIDUALS.

I AM VERY HAPPY INDEED THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO  
TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD HAVE INVOLVED RISK TO THE  
LIFE OF ANY PERSON, BUT I DO NOT IN CONSEQUENCE  
UNDERESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTY OF WHAT WAS DONE. NOR AM  
I LACKING IN APPRECIATION OF THOSE WHO 'STOOD BY' IN

RESTRICTED /CASE

RESTRICTED

CASE SOME OTHER KIND OF ACTION PROVED TO BE UNAVOIDABLE.

AS IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO THANK ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THIS OPERATION I SHALL BE FURTHER INDEBTED TO YOU IF YOU WOULD CONVEY TO THE BRITISH PEOPLE THE GRATEFUL THANKS OF ALL TANZANIANS.

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SEND MY WARM PERSONAL GREETINGS AND GOOD WISHES TO YOU. I AM TOLD THAT YOU YOURSELF SPENT A LONG TIME AT STANSTED ENSURING THAT EVERYTHING WENT WELL, AND CAN ONLY SAY THAT I DO APPRECIATE THIS DEMONSTRATION OF YOUR PERSONAL CONCERN.

YOURS SINCERELY,  
JULIUS K. NYERERE

MOON

HI-JACKING: NON-BRITISH AIRCRAFT

STANDARD

MAED  
WED  
EAD  
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SECURITY D  
MVD

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CONS EM UNIT  
COD  
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

ATTACKS ON NON-BRITISH  
AIRCRAFT

2

RESTRICTED

Flag B

GRS 180  
UNCLASSIFIED  
DESKBY 021000Z  
FM DAR ES SALAAM 020750Z MAR 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TEL NO 072 OF 02 MARCH 1982

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NYERERE  
TO CHIEF CONSTABLE OF ESSEX:

DEAR MR. BUNYARD,  
ON MY OWN BEHALF, AND ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT  
AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC, I WISH TO EXPRESS  
APPRECIATION TO YOU PERSONALLY AND TO YOUR COLLEAGUES  
FOR THE WORK WHICH WAS DONE TO BRING TO AN END THE  
HI-JACKING OF THE TANZANIAN PLANE. YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES  
SUCCEEDED SO WELL IN YOUR SKILLED ENDEAVOURS TO GET A  
PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM THAT YOU ALMOST MADE IT  
LOOK EASY. BUT WE KNOW THAT IT WAS A VERY DIFFICULT  
OPERATION, AND WE CONGRATULATE YOU AT THE SAME TIME AS  
WE THANK YOU. BECAUSE OF THE EFFORTS OF THE ESSEX POLICE  
AND THOSE WHO WORKED WITH THEM IN THIS MATTER, NO LIVES  
WERE LOST AND THE HI-JACKERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.

PLEASE CONVEY OUR APPRECIATION TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE  
ESSEX POLICE FORCE SEMICOLON WITHOUT THEIR DISCIPLINE  
AND THEIR READINESS TO MEET THIS EMERGENCY THE OUTCOME  
MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN VERY DIFFERENT.

YOURS SINCERELY,  
JULIUS K. NYERERE

MOON

HI-JACKING: NON-BRITISH AIRCRAFT  
STANDARD MVD  
MAED NAD  
WED CONS D  
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SED COD  
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SECURITY D

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION  
ATTACKS ON NON-BRITISH  
AIRCRAFT



-4 MAR 1982

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8769

ADVANCE COPIES: HI-JACKING

11/11/82

PS  
PS/SIR I GILMOUR LPS (\$) (S)  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/MR LUCE  
PS/PUS  
LORD BRIDGES  
Mr BRAITHWAITE Adams

SEC OF STATE FOR TRADE )  
MR N PEACE ) DOT  
MR R E CLARKE )  
MR H J BLANKS ) 1 VIC ST  
MR LANGLEY )

UNDER SEC/GEOSG Bullard  
Goodson

NO 10 DOWNING STREET  
DIO CABINET OFFICE

ED/MAED  
ED/PUSD (2)

SIR R ARMSTRONG CABINET OFFICE

ED/GEOSG  
SEA

Home Office  
Secretary of State

ED/CONS D WES  
CONS EM UNIT MED  
ED/COD NENAS  
ED/NEWS D

RESIDENT CLERK [Mc. Huckle, EAD]

Debra R/MOS  
Cab. Off.

DARFO 002/02

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL NO: T 36/82  
(see final copy of telegram)

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

LTX 846/02

OO FCO DESKBY 021000Z

GRS 450

RESTRICTED

DESKBY 021000Z

FM DAR ES SALAAM 020735Z MAR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TEL NO 071 OF 02 MARCH 1982

John I understand  
The High Commissioner is  
likely to ask whether he  
can present the top copy  
of this to the Prime Minister  
in person. ? mind we shall  
have to agree.  
LM  
2/3

MIPT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NYERERE  
TO THE PRIME MINISTER

DEAR MRS. THATCHER,

I WRITE TO EXPRESS MY OWN VERY DEEP APPRECIATION

I WRITE TO EXPRESS MY OWN VERY DEEP APPRECIATION AND THANKS, AS WELL AS THAT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF TANZANIA, TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND TO THE BRITISH POLICE FOR THE ACTIONS WHICH BROUGHT TO A SATISFACTORY END THE HI-JACKING OF THE TANZANIAN PLANE.

YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THE ANXIETY AND THE FEELING OF HELPLESSNESS HERE WHEN WE HEARD THAT THE PLANE HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER. WE REALISED THAT WE WERE ENTIRELY DEPENDENT UPON THE GOODWILL AND THE CAPACITY OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE THE HI-JACKERS CHOSE TO LAND. WHEN THERE SEEMED TO BE A POSSIBILITY THAT THEY WOULD FORCE THE PLANE TO COME TO BRITAIN, I THEREFORE CALLED SIR PETER MOON, YOUR HIGH COMMISSIONER HERE, TO ASK FOR BRITISH HELP. BEFORE I COULD DO SO HE ASSURED ME THAT BRITAIN WOULD BRING THE HI-JACK TO AN END. I DID APPRECIATE THIS IMMEDIATE GESTURE.

EVEN SO, HI-JACKERS ARE UNPREDICTABLE. I WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO PAY A VERY GENUINE TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM WHITELAW WHO TOOK OVERALL CHARGE OF THE OPERATION AND PREPARED FOR ANY EVENTUALITY. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO PAY A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT BUNYARD, THE CHIEF CONSTABLE OF THE ESSEX POLICE, AND ALL THOSE WHO WORKED UNDER HIS DIRECTION. IT WAS A TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENT TO PERSUADE THE HI-JACKERS TO RELEASE ALL THE HOSTAGES, AND FINALLY TO SURRENDER THEMSELVES WITHOUT DAMAGING THE PLANE. I REALISE THE STRAIN THAT MUST HAVE BEEN FELT BY ALL THOSE AT STANSTED AIRPORT THROUGHOUT THEIR LONG NEGOTIATIONS WITH THESE UNKNOWN BUT ARMED INDIVIDUALS.

I AM VERY HAPPY INDEED THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD HAVE INVOLVED RISK TO THE LIFE OF ANY PERSON, BUT I DO NOT IN CONSEQUENCE UNDERESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTY OF WHAT WAS DONE. NOR AM I LACKING IN APPRECIATION OF THOSE WHO 'STOOD BY' IN CASE SOME OTHER KIND OF ACTION PROVED TO BE UNAVOIDABLE.

AS IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO THANK ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THIS OPERATION I SHALL BE FURTHER INDEBTED TO YOU IF YOU WOULD CONVEY TO THE BRITISH PEOPLE THE GRATEFUL THANKS OF ALL TANZANIANS.

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SEND MY WARM PERSONAL GREETINGS AND GOOD WISHES TO YOU. I AM TOLD THAT YOU

SEND MY WARM PERSONAL  
TO YOU. I AM TOLD THAT YOU  
~~STANSTED ENSURING THAT~~  
~~ONLY SAY THAT I DO~~  
~~OF YOUR PERSONAL CONCERN.~~

SINCERELY,  
J. K. NYERERE

~~you~~ yourself spent a long time at Stansted  
ensuring that everything went well,  
and can only say that I do  
appreciate this demonstration of  
your personal concern

Yours sincerely  
J. K. Nyerere

RECEIVED CHARGE DE THE  
MONTREUX OFFICE 10  
SEPTEMBER 1966

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RECEIVED AMEMBASSY WASHINGTON

SEPTEMBER 19 1966

STATE DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C.

20540

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SUBJECT



THE STATE HOUSE,  
DAR ES SALAAM,  
TANZANIA.

1st March, 1982.

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,  
The Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
Whitehall,  
London, S.W.1.

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 36/82

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

I write to express my own very deep appreciation and thanks, as well as that of the Government and People of Tanzania, to the British Government and to the British Police for the actions which brought to a satisfactory end the hi-jacking of the Tanzanian plane.

You will understand the anxiety and the feeling of helplessness here when we heard that the plane had been taken over. We realised that we were entirely dependent upon the goodwill and the capacity of those countries where the hi-jackers chose to land. When there seemed to be a possibility that they would force the plane to come to Britain, I therefore called Sir Peter Moon, your High Commissioner here, to ask for British help. Before I could do so he assured me that Britain would bring the hi-jack to an end. I did appreciate this immediate gesture.

Even so, hi-jackers are unpredictable. I would therefore like to pay a very genuine tribute to Mr. William Whitelaw who took overall charge of the operation and prepared for any eventuality. I would also like to pay a special tribute to Mr. Robert Bunyard, the Chief Constable of the Essex Police, and all those who worked under his direction. It was a tremendous achievement to persuade the hi-jackers to release all the hostages, and finally to surrender themselves without damaging the plane. I realise the strain that must have been felt by all those at Stansted Airport throughout their long negotiations with these unknown but armed individuals.

I am very happy indeed that it was not necessary to take any action which would have involved risk to the

life of any person, but I do not in consequence underestimate the difficulty of what was done. Nor am I lacking in appreciation of those who 'stood by' in case some other kind of action proved to be unavoidable.

As it is not possible for me to thank all those involved in this operation I shall be further indebted to you if you would convey to the British people the grateful thanks of all Tanzanians.

I take this opportunity to send my warm personal greetings and good wishes to you. I am told that you yourself spent a long time at Stansted ensuring that everything went well, and can only say that I do appreciate this demonstration of your personal concern.

Yours sincerely,

Julius K. Nyerere

*Hijack*

*Prime Minister*

*Wm  
1/3*

GRS 30  
UNCLASSIFIED  
FM DAR ES SALAAM 281918Z FEB 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 067 OF 28 FEBRUARY 1982  
INFO IMMEDIATE NAIROBI

*mf*

HIJACK.

AFTER BEING INFORMED THAT THE HIJACK WAS OVER, PRESIDENT  
NYERERE ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU HIS APPRECIATION OF ALL  
THAT WE HAD DONE AND HIS CONGRATULATIONS ON THE SUCCESSFUL  
OUTCOME.

MOON

HI-JACKING: NON-BRITISH AIRCRAFT

STANDARD

MAED  
WED  
EAD  
SED  
MED  
NENAD  
SECURITY D  
MVD

NAD  
CONS D  
CONS EM UNIT  
COD  
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

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