

CONFIDENTIAL

# 10 DOWNING STREET

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FILE TITLE: Relations		SERIES: DUBAI
		PART: 1
PART BEGINS: 19 Jan 1999 <del>2 May 1997</del>	PART ENDS: April 2000 <del>7 JUNE 2001</del>	CAB ONE:

**LABOUR  
ADMINISTRATION**

*Part closed*

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PART

CLOSED

DATE CLOSED	7 JUNE 2001
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Series : DUBAI  
File Title : Relations  
Part : 1

Date	From	To	Subject	Class	Secret
19/01/1999	FCO	FCO	Robert Glazzard	U	0
07/04/1999	UAE/Pres	PM	(H) Invitation to "Britain and the Gulf 2000"	R	0
16/04/1999	DTI	GR	Letter from HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum	U	0
21/04/1999	GR	FCO	Letter from Crown Prince of Dubai	U	0
17/05/1999	FCO	FA/APS	Letter from Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum	R	0
24/05/1999	PM	UAE/Pres	(H) PM to visit Dubai in April 2000	C	0
27/05/1999	DTI	EA/PS	BA ticket sales Proposed decision by the Commission	C	0
01/04/2000			PM Message of support for "Britain and the Gulf 2000"	U	0





10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

The Arabian Peninsula is one of Britain's most important export markets. Last year our exports of goods to the region – across a huge range of sectors – earned more than £7bn. Exports of services, too, were worth several billion pounds.

In order to preserve and improve this excellent performance, we need to maintain a high profile in the Gulf for our products, our technical capability and our design and creative talents. We know that they are the equal of any in the world. We must ensure others know that too. "Britain and The Gulf 2000" offers an ideal shop window for our wares.

We are fortunate enough to enjoy excellent commercial and political relations with the countries of the Gulf. Nevertheless, we cannot afford to be complacent. More and more competitors are finding the Gulf an attractive export market. I believe events such as "Britain and The Gulf 2000" can do a great deal to support the work that government is doing to promote our exports in key markets. I very much hope that, whether you are already exporting to the region or are considering the Gulf for the first time, you will consider using "Britain and The Gulf 2000" as one of your key marketing tools.

*Tony Blair*

April 2000





10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

SUBJECT  
MASTER

Filed on

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 May 1999

*Your Highness*

Thank you for your letter of 7 April in which you kindly invited me to visit Dubai in April 2000 to open the 'Gulf and Britain 2000' trade event.

I attach great importance to the longstanding ties between our two countries. Bilateral trade is one of the key ingredients. I am pleased that the Dubai UK Trade and Economic Committee (DUKTEC) is proving an effective and forward-thinking vehicle in promoting that aspect of our relationship and agree that we should do what we can to support its objectives and activities.

I have not yet had the chance to look at my programme of overseas travel for next year, but will certainly consider your kind invitation nearer the time.

In the meantime, I am sure that the next meeting of DUKTEC due to take place in the United Kingdom in September will set the scene for a successful meeting in Dubai next year.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Tony Blair*

His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum GBE



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 May 1999

*Dear Philip,*Letter from Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum

The Crown Prince of Dubai has invited the Prime Minister to make a trade-related visit to Dubai in April 2000. The main purpose would be to open a major trade fair 'Britain and the Gulf 2000' being promoted by the Department of Trade and Industry in association with the Dubai UK Trade and Export Commission (DUKTEC) between 11-14 April 2000. The Prime Minister has already written in support of this event.

The Prime Minister has not yet been able to visit the UAE, which is a major UK export market worth in excess of £1.5 billion per annum. The Defence Secretary recently recommended that the Prime Minister should, as a matter of priority, visit the Gulf countries. The Prime Minister has already visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. We would therefore see a visit to the UAE as the next priority. If the Prime Minister were to visit in April 2000, he would be expected to spend one full day (11 April) in Dubai to open the trade event, but protocol would dictate a call on President Zayed in Abu Dhabi beforehand.

We and the DTI are keen to support this visit, but recognise that the Prime Minister may be reluctant to make a firm commitment so far in advance. I therefore enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister to Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid which is supportive in tone, but leaves the final decision on his ability to attend to nearer the time. If you are content, our Embassy in Dubai would be able to deliver a signed original.

*Yours etc,  
Sherard*

(Sherard Cowper-Coles)  
Principal Private Secretary

Philip Barton Esq OBE  
10 Downing Street



DRAFT REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO:

HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum GBE  
The Crown Prince of Dubai  
The Ruler's Court  
Government of Dubai

Thank you for your letter of 7 April 1999 in which you kindly invited me to visit Dubai in April 2000 to open the 'Gulf and Britain 2000' trade event.

I attach great importance to the longstanding ties between our two countries. Bilateral trade is one of the key ingredients. I am pleased that the Dubai UK Trade and Economic Committee (DUKTEC) is proving an effective and forward-thinking vehicle in promoting that aspect of our relationship and agree that we should do what we can to support its objectives and activities.

I would very much like to be able to join you in Dubai for the launch of 'Gulf and Britain 2000' on 11 April 2000. At this early stage, however, it is difficult for me to give a firm commitment. Perhaps I could write to you again towards the end of the year to confirm whether or not I will be able to attend.

In the meantime, I am sure that the next meeting of DUKTEC due to take place in the UK in September will set the scene for a successful meeting in Dubai next year.

T A Witton  
MED, FCO

270 2985



DUBAI  
615 (PB)

AS



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Assistant Private Secretary

no ack 21 April 1999

Dear Tim,

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the Crown Prince of Dubai.

I should be grateful for your advice, together with a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature, to reach this office by Wednesday, 5 May.

If your Department is not responsible for this subject, please let us know as soon as possible to which Department the correspondence has been forwarded.

Yours ever

*Jamie Richards*

MRS J K RICHARDS

*d*

T Barrow Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



1  
R 12/4

Ref.

To: The Garden Rooms  
No 10 Downing Street

CI: Nick Wellington  
Laura Cooper

From: Richard Parry  
XP1a  
DTI  
Room 506  
Kingsgate House  
66-74 Victoria Street

Top - FB  
✓ JLo  
JSM  
pre.

Tel: 0171 215 4956  
Fax: 0171 215 4831

16 April 1999

**LETTER FROM HH SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM**

I enclose a letter from the Crown Prince of Dubai to the Prime Minister which was handed over during the recent visit to Dubai by the Minister for Trade. The letter invites the Prime Minister to make a trade-related visit to Dubai in April next year, accompanied by a senior business team, and to open the "Britain And The Gulf" exhibition which takes place from 11-14 April.

- 2. The Prime Minister has already provided a letter of support for this event and the DTI would welcome the opportunity to draft a positive reply.
- 3. I am sending a copy of the letter and this minute to Trevor Witton, MED/FCO.

RICHARD PARRY

cc Tim Barrow, FCO

Adv. + draft reply.



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

ديوان سمو الحاكم  
حكومة دبي  
*H.H. The Ruler's Court*  
Government of Dubai

SUBJECT  
MASTER

دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة

7<sup>th</sup> April, 1999

Diwan/532/99/hp

**The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP**  
**Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service**  
**10 Downing Street**  
**London**  
**SW1A 2AA**

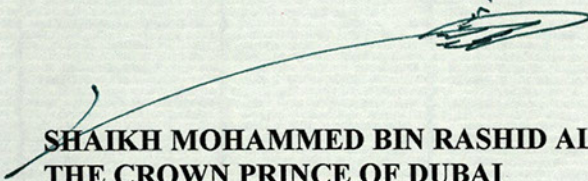
Dear Prime Minister,

I have immense pleasure to inform you that the Dubai-United Kingdom Trade and Economic Committee has just convened its fifth meeting here in Dubai. While I am impressed with the worthwhile progress made by the committee, I firmly believe that there is a greater need for the leaders of business and industry in the UK and The United Arab Emirates to forge closer and durable relations.

I am extremely happy that your government is endeavouring to highlight the excellent opportunities available for British entrepreneurs. "Britain and the Gulf 2000", scheduled to be held in Dubai during 11-14 April 2000, will be a major event. I appreciate deeply your letter of encouragement and we need to build on it.

Meanwhile, we should accord priority to widen the scope for businessmen in the UK and Dubai to interact in a more progressive manner. I would like to send an enhanced delegation from Dubai to participate in the next meeting of the Trade and Economic Committee scheduled to take place in Britain. I want them to meet a wider cross-section of senior British businessmen and, in turn, they should invite their British counterparts to visit Dubai in spring.

In particular, I invite you to lead that delegation and to be the Chief Guest at "Britain and the Gulf 2000". No doubt, your presence in Dubai then would demonstrate the importance Britain attaches to the United Arab Emirates in general and Dubai in particular and vice-versa.

  
**SHAIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM**  
**THE CROWN PRINCE OF DUBAI**  
**MINISTER OF DEFENCE**

هاتف : ٥٣٣٣٣٣ فاكس : ٥٣٨٤٣٨ ص . ب : ١٢٨٤٨ دبي - الإمارات العربية المتحدة

Tel : 533333 , Fax : 538438 , P.O Box : 12848 Dubai, United Arab Emirates



From: Adam Radcliffe (Duty Officer) Tel: 0171-2384506/7  
 Date: 19 January 1999  
 Reference: GK/GLA/R

To: David Ward  
 Resident Clerk

*file*  
*PRB 20/1*

*See PRB*  
*cc: Jen*  
*JP*  
*AC*  
*JS*

**ROBERT GLAZZARD**

1. Please refer to our telephone conversation at 19.00. I attach recent papers from Consular Division's file, which give good background to this case. As you will see Mr Glazzard and Mr Hopa (a New Zealand citizen) were reported missing six hours after the "Seabulk Hercules" docked in Dubai last week. There are various theories currently circulating as to how they disappeared.

2. As you will see from Liza Gibb's two faxes of today to John Bryant in Dubai; she had been telephoned by Robert's uncle, Mr Lloyd to say that a body had been found in Dubai waters. He has specifically stated that we should not let the family in the UK (Robert's mother and Aunt) know about this until identification had been made. The reason for this is not to worry Robert's mother more than she already is. Robert's father incidently is in Dubai at the moment with Mr Lloyd.

3. I was telephoned at 18.00 by Robin Twyman (News Dept) to inform me that Robert's mother, Mrs Michelle Glazzard, had telephoned the Prime Minister's Office in a distraught state. She was "incensed" that the Foreign Office were not doing enough to help find her son.

4. Given Mr Lloyd's earlier instructions, this put us in a predicament, as he had specifically said not to release any information about the discovery of a body. After discussing the matter with Duncan Taylor (Head of Consular Division), we agreed that I should first contact Mr Lloyd to inform him of the call from Mrs Glazzard and to seek further guidance from him. I telephoned Mr Lloyd in Dubai at 18.15. He repeated his earlier instructions. He suggested I telephone her to pass on the following points:

That the sea search was still on-going.

That he had had problems dealing with the local police, because of the Eid holiday.

That Oceaneering, Robert's employer were being very helpful.

That he had been in close contact with British Embassy staff in both Dubai and Tehran, who had been helpful.

That the "Kidnapping" scenario was "out of the Question".



That she could telephone him at any time.

That he was not flying to Switzerland tonight and would be staying in Dubai until tomorrow night.

5. I telephoned Mrs Glazzard at 18.30, referring to her earlier telephone conversation to the Prime Minister's Office. I mentioned the points above. Mrs Glazzard was tearful and apologized saying she "was feeling very down today". I think she felt better just to talk to someone to "let off steam". She wanted to be reassured that the Foreign Office were doing everything they could. I assured her we were, and would of course update her with developments, as we received them. I asked if she had someone with her, she said her sister was. Mrs Glazzard then talked at some length about the mystery of her missing son. Finally I gave her the telephone number of the Resident Clerk, as a point of contact during the night. The telephone conversation lasted about 15 minutes.

6. If, during the night you are telephoned again by Mrs Glazzard, would you stick to the points already made by Mr Lloyd.

7. If during the night the body which has been found is that of Mr Robert Glazzard, you will need to do the usual death notification through the Rochdale Police. Would you please write a fax to Liza Gibb (Desk Officer for this case) to update her with the night's developments (if any).

8. Useful contact numbers:

Mrs Michelle Glazzard (mother) [REDACTED]

Mr Lloyd (uncle): 00968-9327635

Liza Gibb's fax no: 238-4532

*Adm Radcliffe*

*20.30.*

cc Robin Twyman  
News Dept

Tim Barrow  
PS

Phil Barton  
PS/P.M.'s Office

*Temporarily returned*

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