



10 DOWNING STREET

30 September 1984

THE PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No: T1666/84

cc: feo
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bc: Sir P. Craddock
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Dear Mr. President:

I was gratified to have your letter of 5 July about the Pakistan Navy's wish to acquire British ships, and their interest in Type 21 Frigates. We were very pleased that Admiral Khan was able to come to this country and the First Sea Lord has told me of the success of his visit and the way in which the Ministry of Defence was able to assist your Naval Evaluation Team which came here shortly afterwards for discussions with Royal Navy experts.

I was naturally delighted to hear that on the basis of the technical and financial assistance that we have offered, your Ministry of Defence has now issued a Letter of Intent to Vosper Thornycroft for three Type 21 Frigates. My officials are in close touch with Vosper Thornycroft and their bankers and I understand that contract negotiations are due to begin in the near future.

Admiral Khan will have received a draft copy of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between our two Governments. The British Ministry of Defence stands ready to give full support to this project as set out in the Memorandum. As a first step, the First Sea Lord is making available a senior official from the Directorate of Contracts for Surface Ships to visit Islamabad to explore with your officials how we can best assist you during the

289

contract negotiations. I am very pleased at the prospect of extending still further the close collaboration between our two Navies.

Please accept my very best wishes.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Nazim Shahid

General M Zia-ul-Haq