



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Sahel and West Africa Team
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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11 May 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 (FOIA) REQUEST REF: 0296-16

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 11 March 2016. In your request you asked for:

- *I would be grateful for copies of the three telegrams I sent to the FO on the murder on 29 December 1992 by Strasser and co of 26 men who had been imprisoned in Pademba Road Jail. As I remember these telegrams gave respectively the background, the events themselves, and a recommendation that HMG cancel its participation in a nascent IMF balance of payments programme. The telegrams were the basis of Secretary of State Douglas Hurd's public statement in Nigeria on 5 January in which he suspended our part in the programme. I would also be grateful for a copy of this statement please.*

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request. I have not found the telegram with the specific reference to the "recommendation that HMG cancel its participation in a nascent IMF balance of payments programme" but I will continue to search for the relevant telegram. In the meantime, I am pleased to enclose the material which we can release to you.

We were considering whether some information was exempt under section 27 - International relations, of the FOIA but have decided that this exemption does not apply and we have not withheld any information under this exemption.

Some information is being withheld under the following exemption of the (FOIA):

Section 40 (2) and (3) Personal Information

Some information has been withheld under section 40 – personal information. Some of the information you have requested is personal data relating to third parties, the disclosure of which would contravene one of the data protection principles. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

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Yours sincerely,

Sahel and West Africa Team



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