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Royal Aides Hold Secret London Talks in Bid to Heal Family Rift

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Senior representatives of King Charles III and Prince Harry met discreetly in London, marking the first sign of possible reconciliation after years of silence and strained relations.

In a quiet move that could mark the beginning of a long-overdue royal thaw, key aides to the King and the Duke of Sussex met in central London this week, *The Mail* reports. The meeting took place at the Royal Over-Seas League, a discreet venue close to Clarence House, and brought together figures from both sides who had not met face-to-face in years.

Photographs obtained by *The Mail* on Sunday show Meredith Maines, Prince Harry's Chief Communications Officer, and Liam Maguire, who handles the Sussexes' public relations in the United Kingdom, sitting down with Tobyn Andreae, the King's Communications Secretary. While there was no formal agenda, the gathering was described as a casual meeting over drinks where both parties had "things they wanted to talk about," according to a source.

Though it's unclear which side extended the invitation, the fact that the meeting took place is a noticeable shift. "There's a long road ahead, but a channel of communication is now open for the first time in years," the insider told *The Mail*. Neither Buckingham Palace nor the Sussex team has publicly commented on the matter.

Fractured Ties

The rift between Prince Harry and the rest of the Royal Family has grown wider since he and Meghan Markle chose to step back from royal duties in 2020. Their move to California, described as a bid for both financial independence and greater personal freedom, set the stage for one of the most public family fallouts in recent royal history.

Things escalated following their 2021 television interview with Oprah Winfrey. The couple made several serious claims, including one about a senior royal questioning what their son Archie's skin colour might be. The interview drew sharp global attention and left the monarchy facing uncomfortable scrutiny.

Further wounds were laid bare in Harry's memoir, *Spare*. In it, he wrote about a physical altercation with his brother, the Prince of Wales, and claimed that their father, now the King, placed the institution's interests above his own son's well-being. Harry also suggested that King Charles had harboured jealousy towards Meghan's popularity and press attention.

Another point of deep contention has been security. After stepping back from royal duties, Harry lost access to the police protection he once had. He later brought a legal case against the Home Office, challenging the decision made by Ravec, the Executive Committee for the Protection of Royalty and Public Figures. He argued that the reduced protection left him and his family vulnerable while in the U.K. Earlier this year, the High Court rejected his appeal.

In a BBC interview, Prince Harry opened up about the strain, saying the King was not currently speaking to him and voicing concern for his father's health. Charles III was

diagnosed with cancer in February 2024 and has since scaled back many public appearances while undergoing treatment. Despite the tensions, Harry said he still hoped for a reconciliation.

This week's low-key meeting may not resolve years of hurt overnight, but it offers hope. After so much silence, a simple conversation over drinks might be the first step toward rebuilding fractured trust within the royal fold.