

26(A)



Type for transmission
on Swift line.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

(1)

27 October 1980

Prime Minister

As per attached draft reply to Pres. Giscard.

Print - 27/17

Dear Michael,

Speed sub

Iraq/Iran: Minesweeping in the Gulf:
Message from President Giscard

I attach a self-explanatory draft reply to the message from President Giscard enclosed with your letter to me of 24 October.

I am sending copies of this letter to Brian Norbury (Ministry of Defence) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours faithfully
Rodric Lyne

PP (P Lever)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing St

DSR 11 (Revised)

DRAFT: ~~minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note~~
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:
President of the French Republic

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:
My Dear President,

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your message of 24 October about the Iran/Iraq crisis. I was grateful to you for letting me know in advance of your decision to send to the area a minesweeping flotilla which will be operational on 20 November.

CAVEAT.....

I certainly agree with you that if the Straits of Hormuz, or for that matter the waters of the Persian Gulf, were to be mined this would present a grave threat to oil supplies vital to the world.

For our part we have on stand-by a specialised mining clearance team. This team with its equipment is air-transportable and could therefore be in the area at short notice. It would constitute an important complement to efforts which you and other countries are able to make.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

Meanwhile I believe it remains extremely important for all of us to co-ordinate action in this way, if we are to be able to respond to the threats and take effective action, without provoking the very dangers which we are seeking to avoid.

*Your sincerely
Margaret Thatcher*

0861120 27 OCT 1980

