



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 March 1983

Prime Minister

*not*  
To note message from the  
Amir of Bahrain. We shall let  
you have a reply.

A.J.C. 15/3.

Dear John,

Iran/Iraq: Message from the Amir of Bahrain

I enclose a message from Shaikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifah, the Amir of Bahrain, which has been delivered to us by the Bahraini Ambassador for onward transmission to the Prime Minister.

The Ambassador said that similar messages have been sent to the Americans and the French, although he did not know whether the message had been sent to the Russians or Chinese.

The Ambassador implied that the message had the support of the other members of the GCC. When asked, he said that he did not know whether the message related to anything said at the Non-Aligned Summit in New Delhi.

I will write again with any further comments, together with a draft reply, shortly.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 22A/83

CC MASTER  
OPS

28th February 1983

H E the Hon Margaret Thatcher  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1  
England  
United Kingdom

Madam Prime Minister

We feel sure that Your Excellency will agree with us that the international peace and security of the world is entirely integrated and that one region cannot be isolated from another in this respect. Security, as you are certainly aware, is indivisible. Accordingly, the stability of the Gulf region is as important to the other States of the world as it is to the States of that region by virtue of the many important mutual interests involved. Such mutual interests cannot be preserved and developed unless the States of the region are able to enjoy peace and security, and this peace and security has become seriously threatened by the continuation for approximately the last three years of the war between Iraq and Iran.

Peace cannot be maintained in the Gulf unless an end is put to this war. Hostilities have recently intensified and it has become the urgent duty of all States to discover a more effective means to secure peace than those previously sought by the United Nations, in particular through the Security Council, the Organisation of Islamic Countries and the Organisation of Non-Aligned Countries, and by certain friendly States.

The continuation of the war between Iraq and Iran will generate serious instability in the Gulf region. As long as the current situation remains unpredictable this war will jeopardise both the regional and individual safety of the States of the region and the freedom of navigation in the Gulf. Moreover, it will prejudice international peace and security contrary to the terms of the United Nations Charter.

Your Excellency, it is not unknown to you that the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council have made considerable efforts to find a means to end the Iraq-Iran war, and to arrest the consequent wastage and drain of human and financial resources. We have however, been unable to date to find a way to ensure that the two parties will cease hostilities and will enter into negotiations to solve their dispute by peaceful means.

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Page 2

The States which comprise the United Nations Security Council bear a special responsibility under the United Nations Charter to maintain international peace and security. The Charter prescribes the measures to be taken whenever such international peace and security is threatened. We consider that the States of the Security Council have not yet done their utmost to secure an end to the war between Iraq and Iran.

We write to urge you to give further consideration to the possibility of applying the measures contained in the United Nations Charter, in the strongly held belief that the application of such measures will bring an end to a war which has exhausted both countries, destroyed their economic structures and undermined the stability of the entire Gulf region.

We look forward to learning of your views in this connection, and remain confident that you will take the necessary measures to ensure the maintenance of peace in the Gulf region.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

*Isa bin Sulman*

Isa bin Sulman Al-Khalifa  
Amir of the State of Bahrain