

PRIME MINISTER

IRAQ/KUWAIT

It is apparent that some of the smaller Gulf States are a bit miffed that we have decided to put our military assets into Saudi Arabia and Oman, and none into them. This applies particularly to Abu Dhabi and Bahrain, both of whom have spoken in this sense. Abu Dhabi has also pointed out that we have not sent any emissaries to explain things and reassure them, while the French have already had someone out from Paris to do the rounds (probably selling arms I should think).

I think it would be a good idea for us to get someone out there pretty swiftly. Both the Foreign Secretary and the Defence Secretary intend to go at the end of the month/early September, but I am sure we cannot wait that long. William Waldegrave cannot really be spared at present, as he is acting as Minister in Charge here. The obvious candidate for a quick trip to see our forces and to call on the Bahrainis and UAE would be Archie Hamilton. Agree that we should try to interest him in this mission?

C.D.P.

Yes ^{OK} not ^{him} to go. If need

be sure we can send another question of Torres
no

C. D. POWELL

13 August 1990

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