

SECRET



*File to Foreign points
for PC.*

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From the Private Secretary

13 August 1990

Dear Dominic,

IRAQ/KUWAIT

The Prime Minister has raised four points on which it would be helpful to have early comments from the FCO and MOD:

- ✓ (i) she is keen to get the blockade (or 'interdiction', as the Americans have it) going. My understanding is that the Americans have their request from the Kuwaitis, and are poised to start. We hope to receive a request today. The Prime Minister wants to know when we start allocating duties between navies: decide which countries will interdict in the Red Sea and which in the Gulf: what the coordinating mechanism will be and so on.
- (ii) *ANSWER by FCO* the Prime Minister believes that we must constantly be putting the case against Saddam Hussein, as Mr. Waldegrave did very effectively yesterday. We must get out details of his appallingly brutal record. The FCO and other agencies should work up a fully documented brief, perhaps in collaboration with the Americans.
- ✓ (iii) on the military side, the Prime Minister wants to know what rules apply to hot pursuit across the Kuwaiti and Iraqi borders in the event of penetration and/or attacks by Iraqi aircraft. Is that covered by existing ROE? Or should we extend the ROE to cover such eventualities?
- ✓ (iv) the Prime Minister would also like to see a considered military view on how we (and the Americans) would respond to a chemical attack, either on our forces or on Saudi installations.

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It would be helpful to have at least a preliminary view on these points by this evening and a fuller report by tomorrow.

I am copying this letter to Jane Binstead (Ministry of Defence), Julian Miller (Mr. Hamilton's Office, Ministry of Defence), and to Sir Robin Butler.

Your friend,
C.D. POWELL
[Signature]

The Hon. Dominic Asquith,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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