



To: MR MACLEAN *J* *Az*

cc Ms Phippard
Mrs Thomson (or)
Mr Morris (No 10)

From: T J Sutton
Date: 13 August 1990

RECALL OF PARLIAMENT : LETTER FROM MR WALLACE

The Lord President discussed with me the further letter from Jim Wallace of 9 August (copy attached for you and copy recipients).

He agreed that there is no cause for us to modify the position the Government has adopted following the meeting of Ministers last Wednesday. But, since we have taken steps to ensure that the Official Opposition are briefed on the actions the Government is taking, he thinks it important that Mr Wallace should also be spoken to by either or both of MoD and FCO, in order to prevent him stirring up public discussion of whether or not the House needs to be recalled.

I suggested to the Lord President that you might, in the first instance, speak to Mr Wallace, and then if it seemed necessary arrange for someone in MoD and/or FCO to speak to him as well. The Lord President agreed. Could you therefore please take this on?

7.

T J SUTTON
Principal Private Secretary

TJS/aw

FROM: JIM WALLACE MP
CHIEF WHIP, SOCIAL AND LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL RECEIVED	
- 9 AUG 1990	
ACTION FOR	
COPIES TO	

Sir Geoffrey Howe MP,
Lord President of the Council and
Leader of the House,
Privy Council Offices,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2AT

9th August 1990

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

Thank for your letter of 6th August regarding the recall of the House of Commons.

Following yesterday's news that British troops are being sent to the Gulf to join US led forces in protecting Saudi Arabia, I would urge you to reconsider your position.

Whilst my colleagues and I support the Government's decision to commit U.K. forces, we believe that it would be preferable if the multi-national forces in the Gulf came under United Nations command. We strongly recommend that Parliament should be given an opportunity to debate such matters.

There must also be serious potential threat to the lives of the British military personnel engaged in this action, and it would be appropriate if Parliament had an opportunity to endorse the Government's decision and in doing so reassure our service men that they have the full support of Parliament.

Given these latest developments, my colleagues and I believe that the House should be recalled as soon as it is practicable to discuss the growing crisis and to endorse the Government's action.

Yours sincerely,
Jim Wallace