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FILE

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cc PC  
T Perks.

10 DOWNING STREET

David Hatcher

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

14 August 1990

MINISTER (DP)'S VISIT TO THE GULF

I have had a further word with the Prime Minister this morning about Mr Clark's visit to the Gulf. On the understanding that he is departing tomorrow 15 August, she agrees that it would be appropriate to use a VC10, although she hopes that advantage will be taken of the flight to ferry out others required in the Gulf and/or supplies.

The Prime Minister would wish Mr Clark to give her warm personal regards to each of the Rulers whom he meets and to underline Britain's support for them. He might usefully point out the speed and effectiveness of our military response to the Gulf conflict compared with the slower and more distant French response. He should not make any specific commitments about further British forces, but should report back with any requests. The Prime Minister assumes that the FCO will provide political briefing.

We would be ready to announce Mr Clark's visit from No 10 as soon as we have agreement of the Governments concerned. I attach a draft of the sort of statement we would intend to make. I should be grateful if you could give any comments to Terry Perks in the No 10 Press Office. I understand that Mr. Clark does not intend to take press on the aircraft.

I am copying this letter to Dominic Asquith (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Jane Binstead (Ministry of Defence) and to Sir Robin Butler.

CHARLES POWELL

David Hatcher Esq  
Ministry of Defence

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At the request of the Prime Minister, the Honourable Alan Clark, M.P., Minister of State (Defence Procurement), will visit Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE from 15-17 August.

During his visits, Mr Clark will meet members of the Ruling Families and Ministers to discuss developments in the region following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Background

The precise itinerary is:

Bahrain - August

Qatar - August

Abu Dhabi - August

Dubai - August