PRIME MINISTER

Tom King's office have been on. He is furious about Alan Clark going to the Gulf, thinks it all wrong and wants to talk to you urgently.

I think it would be a great mistake to change course now. A very large number of people in Whitehall know about the intended visit, a VC10 has been booked and a press announcement prepared. Contact has been made with our embassies in the small Gulf states. We shall look proper charlies if we go into reverse.

Could you please let Monica know what time you would be prepared to speak to Tom King?

Charles Powell 14 August 1990 We Spoke about