



alc S

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

14 August 1990

IRAQ/KUWAIT

The Prime Minister has seen Kuwait telegram no. 371, reporting the slur carried by the BBC World Service. She is incensed by this and hopes that the Foreign Secretary of Mr. Waldegrave will take it up at the highest level with the BBC and insist upon a public apology.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Sir Robin Butler (Cabinet Office).

(C. D. POWELL)

The Honourable Dominic Asquith,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

S

faxed '90

RESTRICTED

060463
MDADAN 9183

RESTRICTED
FM KUWAIT
TO DESKBY 140645Z FCO
TELNO 371
OF 140555Z AUGUST 1990

ADVANCE COPY

*Disgraceful
OK*

*The
F.C. Sec
must take
this as well
UK
& have
a
public
apology
mt*

FOR EMERGENCY UNIT.

KUWAIT/ IRAQ

1. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE BBC WORLD SERVICE CARRIED AT LEAST TWICE YESTERDAY (AT 1200Z AND 1500Z) "EYE WITNESS" REPORTS THAT BOTH THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN EMBASSIES WERE WITHOUT "KEY PERSONNEL" AT THE TIME OF THE IRAQI INVASION, AND THAT THOSE ACTUALLY HERE HAD FLED BEFORE THE IRAQI HORDES.

2. I APPRECIATE THAT THE BBC IS INDEPENDENT, BUT AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE BOTH STATEMENTS ARE BOTH MALICIOUS AND TOTALLY UNFOUNDED. I CAN ONLY ASSUME BLACKLEY IS THE SOURCE OF THE STORY EXCLAM.

WESTON

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

36

ADVANCE

36 32

IRAQ/KUWAIT
PS
PS/MR WALDEGRAVE
PS/PUS
MR TOMKYS
~~MR GORE-BOOTH~~
MR FAIRWEATHER
MR GOULDEN
HD/MED
HD/NENAD
HD/NAD
HD/EED
HD/SOVIET D
HD/SED
HD/UND
HD/ACDD
HD/CONSULAR D
HD/NEWS D
HD/NPDD

HD/SECPOL D
HD/AMD
HD/ECD(E)
MR FRIDDLE, DEPT OF ENERGY
MR W D REEVES CABINET OFFICE
MR D J GOWAN CABINET OFFICE
MR BARRASS, CABINET OFFICE
(BY TUBE H29)
PS/NUMBER 10 DOWNING ST
SIR P CRADOCK,
(NO 10 DOWNING ST)
CABINET OFFICE DIO
(BY TUBE H29)
SIR ROBIN BUTLER, CAB OFFICE
AUS (C) MDOUK
HD/SEC (C) (C) MDOUK
MR LS SMITH BANK ENGLAND (C)
EMERGENCY UNIT
RESIDENT CLERK

faxed 14/8

02263

RESTRICTED

060463
MOADAN 9183

RESTRICTED
FM KUWAIT
TO DESKBY 140645Z FCO
TELNO 371
OF 140555Z AUGUST 1990

ADVANCE COPY

Disgraceful
CH
- The F.C. Sec must take their words with them & have a public apology
ml

FOR EMERGENCY UNIT.

KUWAIT/ IRAQ

1. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE BBC WORLD SERVICE CARRIED AT LEAST TWICE YESTERDAY (AT 1200Z AND 1500Z) 'EYE WITNESS' REPORTS THAT BOTH THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN EMBASSIES WERE WITHOUT 'KEY PERSONNEL' AT THE TIME OF THE IRAQI INVASION, AND THAT THOSE ACTUALLY HERE HAD FLED BEFORE THE IRAQI HORDES.

2. I APPRECIATE THAT THE BBC IS INDEPENDENT, BUT AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE BOTH STATEMENTS ARE BOTH MALICIOUS AND TOTALLY UNFOUNDED. I CAN ONLY ASSUME BLACKLEY IS THE SOURCE OF THE STORY EXCLAM.

WESTON

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

36

ADVANCE 36 32

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| IRAQ/KUWAIT | HD/SECPOL D |
| PS | HD/AMD |
| PS/MR WALDEGRAVE | HD/ECD(E) |
| PS/PUS | MR FRIDDLE, DEPT OF ENERGY |
| MR TOMKYS | MR W D REEVES CABINET OFFICE |
| MR GORE BOOTH | MR D J GOWAN CABINET OFFICE |
| MR FAIRWEATHER | MR BARRASS, CABINET OFFICE |
| MR GOULDEN | (BY TUBE H29) |
| HD/MED | PS/NUMBER 10 DOWNING ST |
| HD/NENAD | SIR P CRAOOCK, |
| HD/NAD | (NO 10 DOWNING ST) |
| HD/EED | CABINET OFFICE DIO |
| HD/SOVIET D | (BY TUBE H29) |
| HD/SED | SIR ROBIN BUTLER, CAB OFFICE |
| HD/UND | AUS (C) MODUK |
| HD/ACDD | HD/SEC (D) (C) MODUK |
| HD/CONSULAR D | MR LS SMITH BANK ENGLAND (C) |
| HD/NEWS D | EMERGENCY UNIT |
| HD/NPDD | RESIDENT CLERK |