

CONFIDENTIAL ✓ seenPRIME MINISTERIRAQ/KUWAIT

You should be aware of one potentially worrying development affecting British nationals in Kuwait. Early this morning the Iraqis summoned in our Ambassador in Kuwait and insisted that "for their own safety" all members of the British community should be gathered in one location: the Regency Hotel. Our Ambassador has consulted EC colleagues in Kuwait to see whether they have had a similar demand. We have not yet had a read out on that. The FCO have informed the Red Cross and the UN Commissioner for Human Rights and our Mission in New York are raising it with Perez de Cuellar.

The MOD are consulting confidentially on the military net with other Western powers to see what contingency military action they have planned to protect nationals trapped in Kuwait and Iraq; and we are separately checking the legal basis for any such action.

A convoy of dependants and non-essential staff from the Embassy and the BLT in Kuwait are heading for Baghdad. Places on the convoy have been offered to any other UK citizen in Kuwait.

William Waldegrave is holding a Press conference this afternoon. He will cover the position of the convoy and, if the story has broken, the Iraqis' latest move on British residents in Kuwait.



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