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SUBJECT CC MASTER



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

20 August 1990

*Dear Simon,*

The Prime Minister held a meeting today with the Foreign Secretary, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Attorney General and the Minister for Defence Procurement, Mr Alan Clark. Sir Percy Craddock and Mr Len Appleyard were also present. This note records the main action points only.

Having spoken to the Attorney General last night, the Prime Minister said that she was content with the Rules of Engagement for the ARMILLA Patrol and for the RAF contained in the two letters of 18 August to Dominic Morris. However in the course of the discussion, she asked for clarification on when and what degree of force might be used to stop ships breaking sanctions. It was crucial that our ships should have authority to stop ships by force. In particular she wanted to know how oil tankers could be stopped without bridging the oil tanks; and what progressive steps might be taken to stop ships. A further consideration was the safety of crew members; she thought that under the Geneva Convention they should be given warning if there was danger of sinking the ship. She asked for this issue to be resolved today and I think the Prime Minister would find it helpful to have full account on how the Rules of Engagement will operate in practice as soon as possible.

The Prime Minister asked that urgent consideration should be given to the situation faced by Jordan in coping with the stream of refugees from Iraq. Jordan was not well placed to cope with this additional burden and, to help, the UK might provide airlines or other transport for the refugees.

The Prime Minister asked Sir Percy and Mr Appleyard to draft a message for her to send at lunchtime to President Bush. As far as discussions in the UN were concerned, it was agreed that it was vital to stress the importance of finding a way to enforce the sanctions effectively. It would be helpful if the Foreign Secretary would see the Chinese Ambassador to put across the case for the UN Resolution.

The Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Procurement were asked to consider what forces should be sent to the other Arab States in the light of Mr Clark's recent mission. Once this was settled, Mr King said that he would speak to Mr Cheney to let him know in broad terms what was proposed.

The Foreign Secretary said that he would be sending over later today a paper on psychological warfare. The key points to get across were that Saddam Hussein was a loser. He had squandered the lives of 100,000 of his own people in an eight year war and had now given in totally to the Iranians. He was an enemy of the Palestinians - who wanted a small Arab State but no small Arab States would be safe from Iraq.

The Prime Minister said how greatly she appreciated Mr Waldegrave's work over recent weeks. But the regular Cabinet Committee of officials which had been chaired by him should now be chaired at Cabinet Ministerial level, since the key Ministers had now returned from leave. As the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for Defence would be at the meeting of the WEU on Tuesday 21 August, she would chair that meeting herself and take the regular press conference on <sup>21</sup>12 August afterwards.

After the meeting the Prime Minister decided that she would like a further briefing meeting tomorrow at 10 o'clock with Ministers and we will be in touch to set up the meeting.

I am copying this letter to Simon Webb and Jane Binstead (Ministry of Defence), Elisabeth Wilmshurst (Law Officers' Department) Sir Percy Craddock and Len Appleyard (Cabinet Office).

*Gass & co.*

*Caroline*

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