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A: Foreign (Iraq)  
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*From the Private Secretary*

20 August 1990

**IRAQ/KUWAIT: ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT**

The Prime Minister has reflected further on the discussion earlier today as to whether we should send some additional aircraft to the Gulf. She has concluded that the sensible course would be to send some more air defence aircraft, to be based in or among the smaller Gulf States (Bahrain, UAE, Qatar). At the same time, some Tornado ground attack aircraft could be brought forward to Cyprus - if they are not there already - so that they could be moved forward into Saudi Arabia relatively easily should the situation warrant it.

I am copying this letter to Simon Gass (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and to Len Appleyard (Cabinet Office).

**CHARLES POWELL**

Miss Jane Binstead  
Ministry of Defence

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