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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 August 1990

Your Royal Highness,

I have now had the opportunity to consider the message which you passed to me through our Embassy in Washington on 13 August about the Rules of Engagement for British Tornado aircraft in Saudi Arabia. I have looked into this carefully and am glad to reassure you that there are no inconsistencies between our Rules and those applied by the Americans. In particular, it is not the case that we will require visual contact between our aircraft and a hostile one before permitting an engagement.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely

Signature of Nayef bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud

His Royal Highness Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud

Handwritten initials

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From the Private Secretary

20 August 1990

MESSAGE TO PRINCE BANDAR OF SAUDI ARABIA: RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

I enclose a copy of the Prime Minister's letter to Prince Bandar, in reply to his message of 13 August (reported in Washington telno. 1915). I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of the Prime Minister's reply to be sent by telegram to Washington as soon as possible, and for the enclosed signed original to follow by bag.

Caroline Slocock

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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