



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 August 1990

cc/rc

Dear Charles,

Jordan: Refugees

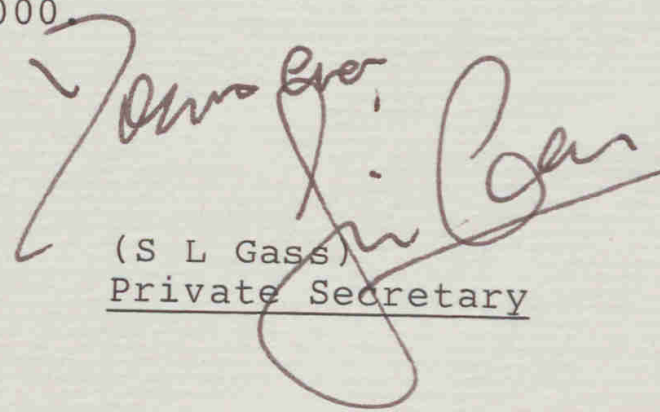
The Prime Minister has asked what response the UK can make to help Jordan cope with the increasing flow of displaced foreign nationals from Iraq and Kuwait.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are offering support to the Jordanian Red Crescent Society (JRCS), who will bear the main burden of ministering to the refugees. The obvious pressure points are at the Iraq/Jordan border crossing point ~~()~~, in Amman and in Aqaba. It is difficult to gauge accurately the rate of refugee crossings, but additional JRCS facilities outside these areas could be needed. The ICRC are initially supplying some medical assistance to a JRCS border transit facility. If the needs expand rapidly, the JRCS are likely to appeal to the whole international Red Cross and Red Crescent family for funds, goods-in-kind and personnel. At that stage and in that order of preference, the British Red Cross Society would expect to help (from their own resources - a UK appeal is not considered likely). The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has not at this stage been invited by Jordan to become involved, for it is still not clear that they fulfill all the internationally accepted criteria of the term 'refugee'.

We suggest that a generous gesture from HMG would be to offer the JRCS up to £500,000, to enable them to obtain the goods necessary to set up transit facilities within Jordan to help the refugees to pass quickly through and beyond Jordan. We would expect their needs to include community and family tents, simple cooking facilities, water treatment equipment, field sanitation and basic medical supplies. The choice would be theirs.

I should add that the European Commission are examining the possibility of allocating an emergency aid credit of 1 million ECU for relief items for refugees arriving in both Jordan and Egypt. The UK share of this credit will be approximately £140,000.

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street


(S L Gass)
Private Secretary

FILE

W/S



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

23 August 1990

Jordan: Refugees

Thank you for your letter of 23 August about the help which the UK can give to Jordan to cope with the increasing flow of displaced foreign citizens from Iraq and Kuwait. I think the Prime Minister would agree that we should offer half a million pounds as a humanitarian gesture, in addition to our share of the proposed EC relief (although my understanding is that the Commission are proposing that the EC contribution should be used for an airlift).

C. D. POWELL

S. L. Gass, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R' or similar.