

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 200/90



MASTER MS
file CC OPC SUBJECT.
cc MOD FCO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 August 1990

File - MIDDLE EAST.

Situation Pt 24

Your Highness

I wrote to Your Highness on 8 August to advise you of the United Kingdom's decision to contribute military forces to the Gulf as a sign of our determination to counter Iraq's aggression in the area. At the same time, I asked whether you would be willing, should the need arise, to agree to the stationing of some of our aircraft in Bahrain. For military and logistic reasons, our initial deployments were to Saudi Arabia and Oman. However, we have since concluded that a strengthening of the defensive capability of our forces would be appropriate.

It was therefore with great pleasure that on 18 August I received Your Highness's reply to my letter confirming your country's willingness, during the current crisis, to make facilities available to the RAF to station aircraft in Bahrain and, subsequently, your agreement to the deployment of 12 Tornado GR1 aircraft; I believe these will represent a powerful contribution to the deterrent capability of the forces in the area. They will, I hope, be seen as a further demonstration of the United Kingdom's commitment to the territorial integrity of our friends in the Gulf area but particularly as a reflection of our longstanding and much valued ties with your country.

The Defence Secretary will be visiting Bahrain next week. I am so glad you have agreed to see him. He is looking forward to exchanging views on the latest situation. I have asked him to carry this letter. The meeting will also provide a useful occasion to discuss the other concerns which I know you have regarding Bahrain's security.

I send Your Highness my warm respect and regards,

Yours sincerely

Nagant Khalifa

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifa, GCB, GCMG.