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cm.

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IRAQ

In paragraph (g) of David Ball's letter of 31 August recording the action agreed at the meeting of the Ad Hoc Group on the Gulf on 31 August, legal advice was requested on the personal position of ships' masters who attempted to evade the blockage. (The other matters on which legal advice was sought in that paragraph were covered in a letter from the Attorney General to the Secretary of State for Defence dated 31 August).

Ships' masters who are Iraqi or of other non-British nationality and who are evading sanctions do not fall within the terms of our own domestic sanctions legislation, which applies only to British citizens or to persons committing acts within the United Kingdom. It is for each state to impose criminal sanctions in respect of its own nationals and its own ships, although in the case of Iraq, of course, no such action can be hoped for. International law does not impose personal criminal liability in matters such as this.

Yours faithfully
E. S. Wilmshurst

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