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THE DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORT



FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW 1P 3EH
TELEPHONE 01-276 3000

Ms Jane Binstead
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
SW1A 2AS

My Ref: P/PSO/11300/90

Your Ref:

C004/9.

- 3 SEP 1990

Dear Jane,

US REQUIREMENT FOR ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF SHIPS

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 2 September to Charles Powell.

As I said over the phone earlier today, my Secretary of State fully supports the offer to provide a RO-RO vessel to support the US operations in the Middle East, as part of the cost of Operation Granby. We now understand that two vessels are to be offered.

We note that MOD have already sounded out the Government Freight Agent about a suitable vessel. In the normal way we would have expected this to have been done through the Government Freight Market Representative at the Baltic Exchange, Mr R H Bilton. However, we would leave the mechanics of the chartering to you, and would only urge that British companies should have an opportunity of bidding.

I am copying this letter to Charles Powell (No.10), John Gieve and Jeremy Heywood (Treasury), Dominic Asquith (FCO), and Sonia Phippard and Len Appleyard in the Cabinet Office.

Yours sincerely

Simon Whiteley

S C WHITELEY
Private Secretary

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