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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 September 1990

Dear Charles,

CDP (11/9)

Yemen/Saudi Border

Your letter of 7 September asked whether Prince Bandar could be given a target date for the papers the Saudis are seeking on the Yemen/Saudi border.

Unfortunately, the Iraq/Kuwait crisis means that all our Middle East research staff have been drafted to man the Emergency Unit. In addition, Patrick Bannerman, our leading expert on border issues, died in July. So although work has started, the crisis has brought it to a temporary halt.

Our ability to resume this task will depend in large part on the progress of the Kuwait crisis. As soon as an officer can be released the Saudi request will be at the top of his agenda. Given the need to compile as complete a set of documents as possible, the task could take a month or so from the time it is resumed.

We realise that this will be a disappointing response from Prince Bandar's viewpoint but we hope he will recognise that the Kuwait crisis has placed major demands on our resources which were not foreseeable when we originally agreed to the Saudi request.

S L Gass
[Signature]

(S L Gass)
Private Secretary

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From the Private Secretary

7 September 1990

YEMEN/SAUDI BORDER

Prince Bandar is passing through London early next week. I shall see him, and it is likely the Prime Minister will too. He has been pressing me for the papers which the Saudis are seeking on the Yemen/Saudi border. Can I give him any comfort, such as a target date?

CHARLES POWELL

Simon Gass Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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