

PRIME MINISTER

GULF: ROE

The MOD have drawn up the attached 'dormant' Rules of Engagement for use if a limited conflict develops in the Gulf. Their proposal is:

to allow a limited military response to a deliberate Iraqi attack.

to allow our ships and aircraft in certain circumstances to attack Iraqi units before they have committed a hostile act e.g. if they are demonstrating hostile intent or pose a threat.

The ROE have been vetted by the Attorney who is satisfied.

In general the ROE require authority from Defence Ministers before being implemented. But in certain circumstances, that authority would be delegated to the British Force Commander (e.g. in the event of communications difficulties or great urgency), who would seek retrospective authority as rapidly as possible.

Separate ROE for a general conflict are being drafted.

Are you content with the ROE as drafted? Yes

Or are there points which you would like to talk through in one of the regular meetings of Ministers?

More specifically, are you content to delegate authority for implementing them in extremis to the British Force Commander?

C.P.

CHARLES POWELL

10 October 1990

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SECRET

Seen by COB 10/10

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10 October 1990

Simon Webb Esq
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for Defence
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Whitehall
LONDON S W 1

Dear Sir

DORMANT ROE

Flap

The Attorney General has seen your letter to Charles Powell of 4 October, attaching two sets of draft dormant Rules of Engagement. The Attorney is content with the Rules as they are drafted.

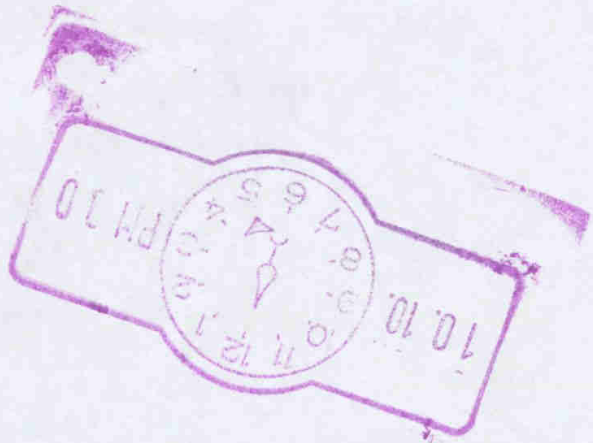
I am copying this letter to Charles Powell, Richard Gozney, John Neilson and to Sonia Phippard.

Yours truly

E S Wilmshurst

E S WILMSHURST

SECRET



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at Pt 30