

TOP SECRET

18/10 23(a-b)

~~SIR PERCY CRADOCK~~

Disarmed
CDD 107-1.

THE GULF: VISIT TO WASHINGTON

The Prime Minister is content with your plans to visit Washington, and she believes a visit will be timely and useful.

The Americans have put very strict constraints on knowledge of some aspects of their military planning and political intentions. The Prime Minister has given a personal undertaking to observe those limits. She thinks therefore that you should not yourself raise certain subjects in discussion with General Scowcroft.

For the sake of clarity, the subjects which you can safely raise are:

- intelligence aspects of the Gulf conflict.
- Iraqi CW and BW capability.
- Iraqi nuclear programme.
- the risk of Israeli involvement.
- tactics at the UN.
- strategic deception.
- long-term security arrangements in the Gulf.
- future handling of Arab-Israel issues.

But she would wish to reserve for her own discussions with the President (and for the Defence Secretary/CDS on the military

TOP SECRET

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b

side) the following subjects:

- the conditions under which we might invoke the military option.
- the timing of such action.
- military planning and strategy.

She has suggested that I should put this agenda to General Scowcroft. Would you be content with that?

CDP

C. D. POWELL

17 October 1990

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