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10 DOWNING STREET
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From the Private Secretary

22 October 1990

Dear Stephen,

GULF: HOSTAGES

Herr Teltschik telephoned me from Bonn this morning to ask whether Mr. Heath had gone to Baghdad with approval, tacit or otherwise, of the British Government. There was now growing pressure for a similar mission from Germany by former Chancellor Willy Brandt. The German Government was under great pressure to give its approval to such a mission but was reluctant to do so. If there was any indication that Mr. Heath had gone to Baghdad by agreement with the British Government, the German Government's position would be made more difficult.

I said that Mr. Heath's decision to go had been entirely his and the Government had not endorsed it. He had been extended the courtesies normally given to any senior British politician travelling abroad. Herr Teltschik was relieved to hear this.

I am copying this letter to Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence) and to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

*Yours sincerely,
Charles Powell*

CHARLES POWELL

Stephen Wall, Esq,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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