

CONFIDENTIAL



PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister
We envisage a
30-minute visit. Mr.
Parkinson will meet you,
& accompany you round.

1. I was delighted to hear that you plan to visit the Embargo Surveillance Centre on 1 November.

CAP
31/X.

2. The Centre has been operating successfully since it was set up on 17 August in accommodation under Marsham Street normally reserved for a number of NATO civil wartime agencies. It is operated on an inter-departmental basis drawing staff from my Department, the FCO, MOD (both Royal Navy and Defence Intelligence Staff) and GCHQ.

3. Using overt and covert sources, it has two main roles. The Centre produces daily sitreps and background material on sanctions busting and sanitises material for use by Posts abroad either bilaterally with other governments or in the UN. The naval cell within the Centre gives 48 hours advance warning to WEU forces of all shipping entering the Eastern Mediterranean, the Gulf and Red Sea and alerts them to suspect vessels.

4. The Centre operates under the general direction of Mr David Rowlands, an Under Secretary in my Department. The naval cell is commanded by Captain Jeremy Howard and the senior officials from the FCO and the MOD are respectively Mr John Hughes and Mr Martin Holmes.

C.P.

CECIL PARKINSON

24 October 1990

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