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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 October 1990

Dear Charles,

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CD 30/12

Call on the Foreign Secretary by Mr Gerald Kaufman

Mr Gerald Kaufman called this afternoon on the Foreign Secretary at the suggestion of the Foreign Secretary. They spoke on a Privy Counsellor basis.

The Foreign Secretary gave Mr Kaufman an account of various aspects of the Gulf crisis, although without telling him anything that he did not know already. Mr Kaufman said that he believed the Labour leadership should be able to keep the party reasonably supportive of the Government's line. He thought that the 35 votes against the Government during the parliamentary debate in September were about five short of the total of those in the Labour Party who strongly disagreed with the Government's policy. At the Labour Party Conference he had tried to keep open the possibility of the military option, without the party becoming committed to any particular sort of United Nations cover. He and Mr Kinnock would like to keep the Labour Party on board in the event of the military option materialising, but that would depend to a certain extent on the level of support at the United Nations. This need not necessarily be a resolution, but Mr Kaufman implied that some sort of UN support would be necessary.

The Foreign Secretary also explained to Mr Kaufman where we stood on hostages in Iraq and Kuwait, and what we were doing to help the families. Mr Kaufman listened without comment.

I am copying this letter to Tim Sutton (Lord President's Office) and to Murdo Maclean (Government Chief Whip's Office).

[Handwritten signature]
Yours,
Stephen Wall

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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