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From the Private Secretary

2 June 1987

VENICE SUMMIT: SHIPPING IN THE GULF

Thank you for your letter of 1 June about protection of shipping in the Gulf. The Prime Minister agrees that we should try to steer the Americans in the direction suggested by the Foreign Secretary. She would be content with a statement from the Venice Summit which underlined the importance of freedom of navigation in the Gulf and welcomed efforts to maintain it, while expressing readiness to endorse a mandatory United Nations Security Council Resolution on Iran/Iraq. The Prime Minister further agrees we should be prepared for further bilateral discussions with the Americans about co-ordination of efforts locally in the Gulf while making clear that we do not envisage joint or integrated operations.

(C. D. POWELL)

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Prime Minister

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This recommends that we
try to get the Americans
to set themselves

attainable targets for
discussion of the Gulf at
the Venice Summit. They
will not get support for
a coordinated naval force.

The best ^{outcome} ~~case~~ is
likely to be a statement

(a) underlining the importance of
freedom of navigation, & welcoming
efforts to maintain it; and

(b) encouragement for a mandatory
UN Security Council resolution on Iran/Iraq.
C.D.