



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL

London SW1A 2AH

7 December 1990

Dear Andrew,

Prop

Royal Visits to Military Sites

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 5 December to Simon Webb.

For the reasons you give, the Foreign Secretary is in favour of an early visit by a member of the Royal Family to the Gulf. He thinks that if, for example, The Prince and Princess of Wales were able to visit the Gulf before or immediately after Christmas, this would have an excellent effect on morale. It would also take the heat out of popular press criticism that not enough is being done for the troops. The Foreign Secretary realises that no visit is presentationally risk-free but he thinks that the risks can be minimised by careful briefing and that the odds are strongly in favour of such a visit being a big success.

We assume that any visit would be under MOD auspices so the security aspects would be readily manageable.

The Foreign Secretary is also strongly in favour of visits by female members of the Royal Family to spouses in Germany or left behind in Britain. But he thinks this should be in addition to, and not instead of, a visit by a member of the Royal Family to the Gulf.

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

Yours,
Stephen Wall

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

Andrew Turnbull Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

MIDDLE EAST - SA PTJH

