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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

11 December 1990

**IRAQ/KUWAIT: PRESIDENT BUSH'S LETTER
TO THE PRIME MINISTER**

Thank you for your letter of 10 December enclosing a draft reply from the Prime Minister to President Bush's recent message on the Gulf. I am sending you a revised version which the Prime Minister has approved. I should be grateful if it could be delivered as soon as possible.

(C. D. POWELL)

Simon Gass, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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10 December 1990

Dear Charles,

Iraq/Kuwait : President Bush's
Letter to the Prime Minister

-file with HT

Thank you for your letter of 3 December, enclosing a message from President Bush to the Prime Minister, following up their telephone discussion of 30 November. I enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister in the form of a telegram to Washington.

The draft inevitably covers some of the same ground as in the Foreign Secretary's reply to a message received from Mr Baker on 1 December. I enclose a copy. The Foreign Secretary is in contact with his Permanent Member colleagues about a possible meeting of the Five around 18 December.

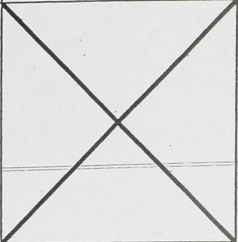
Yours ever,
S L Gass

(S L Gass)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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A The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i>	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM <i>3440</i> (one piece/item number)	
Extract details: <i>Draft PM to US President attached to letter ... Garrison to Lowell dated 10 December 1990</i>	
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2. MELDON

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Back to me 1/12
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FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO MR BAKER

1. PLEASE DELIVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE FOLLOWING REPLY FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO MR BAKER'S MESSAGE OF 1 DECEMBER:
BEGINS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 1 DECEMBER. IT WAS ALSO USEFUL THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS ABLE TO TALK TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

WE QUITE UNDERSTAND THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO INVITE TARIQ AZIZ TO WASHINGTON AND TO ASK YOU TO TALK TO SADDAM HUSSEIN IN BAGHDAD. BY BRINGING HOME TO SADDAM HUSSEIN THE ALTERNATIVE TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS, WE MAY STILL MANAGE TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL OUTCOME. NO-ONE HERE DOUBTS THE RESOLVE OF THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS.

WE WOULD LIKE TO DO ANYTHING WE CAN TO COMPLEMENT AND SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE. BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOULD AVOID UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION AND THAT THE MESSAGE THAT IS SENT TO BAGHDAD SHOULD NOT BE BLURRED. I AM NOT MYSELF IN FAVOUR OF A STRING OF EMISSARIES GOING TO BAGHDAD AS THAT WILL ENCOURAGE SADDAM HUSSEIN TO TRY TO DIVIDE US. WE NEED TO COORDINATE WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PERMANENT FIVE TO ENSURE THAT OUR EFFORTS ARE EFFECTIVE.

I THINK, THEREFORE, THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO FOLLOW UP THE IDEA WHICH WE DISCUSSED OVER DINNER IN NEW YORK LAST WEEK OF A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE FIVE. IDEALLY THIS SHOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE YOU GO TO BAGHDAD. I SEE FROM YOUR MESSAGE THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD WISH YOU TO GO AFTER 15 DECEMBER. WE MIGHT AIM FOR A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE PERMANENT FIVE IN LONDON EITHER IMMEDIATELY BEFORE, OR JUST AFTER, THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON 17/18 DECEMBER. IF YOU AGREE WITH THIS PROPOSAL, I WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR SOVIET AND CHINESE COLLEAGUES. I DISCUSSED THE IDEA WITH ROLAND DUMAS, WHO HAS BEEN HERE TODAY, AND HE IS IN FAVOUR. THE PURPOSES WOULD BE TO RE-EMPHASISE OUR SOLIDARITY BEHIND THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS, AND TO CONVEY AGAIN TO IRAQ THE

PR

CLEAR MESSAGE THAT IF THEY DO NOT COMPLY THEY WILL BE ATTACKED
WHEREAS IF THEY COMPLY FULLY THEY WILL NOT.
ENDS

HURD

YYYY

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SIR P CRADOCK

PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE

PS/CABINET SECRETARY

MR APPELYARD, CABINET OFFICE

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