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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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MO 6/17/15/1D

11 December 1990

Dear Andrew,

ROYAL VISITS TO THE ARMED FORCES

The Defence Secretary has seen your letter of 5th December about possible Royal visits to the Armed Forces, and Stephen Wall's letter of 7th December.

We had, in fact, already identified the value of visits by members of the Royal Family to some of those service families who will be unaccompanied over Christmas. As you say, these need to cover the Navy and RAF as well as the Army in Germany.

The Defence Secretary would see value in a visit by a member of the Royal Family to the Gulf over this period. He liked the idea of the Prince of Wales (and the Princess too if that is the advice from our people in Saudi Arabia). The Duke of Kent has also been mentioned to us as a alternative.

For similar reasons to those discussed earlier, the Defence Secretary is reluctant to advise The Queen to visit the Joint Control Centre at High Wycombe. We will continue to look out for a suitable opportunity, but there would certainly be a place for a "thank you" visit at the end of the operation if nothing else looks sensible before then.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Webb

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