



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 December 1990

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*Per Charles,*

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Call on the Prime Minister by HMA Kuwait and  
British Consul

The Prime Minister has agreed to meet Mr Michael Weston, HMA Kuwait and Mr Larry Banks, First Secretary and Consul, on their return to this country on 18 December at 1645. I understand that their families will also be permitted to be present.

Mr Weston and Mr Banks held out under siege at our Embassy in Kuwait from 24 August. Their only contact with the outside world has been via a radio link with our Embassy in the United Arab Emirates and by telephone with the British community in Kuwait. Electricity and water supplies were cut off in August and they have had to rely on what food they then had supplemented with fresh vegetables grown by Mr Banks. Despite these considerable constraints the Embassy assisted with the evacuation of women and children in September and the final departure of male British nationals following the Iraqi announcement of 6 December permitting foreign nationals to leave.

The Prime Minister might wish to congratulate Mr Weston and Mr Banks for their assistance to the British community under such adverse conditions and thank them for maintaining a British presence in Kuwait for so long. An important political point has been made - that we do not accept Iraq's illegal occupation of Kuwait. The British Ambassador was the last Head of Mission to withdraw. Mr Weston and Mr Banks were eager to remain in Kuwait until its liberation. The Prime Minister might express understanding for this wish but explain that, for reasons of their own personal safety and for the peace of mind of their families, it was decided that, with the majority of the British community having left, it was right for them to be withdrawn.

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Mr Hogg, Mr West and Mr Banks will give a joint press conference on 19 December. Mr Weston has been our Ambassador in Kuwait since March this year and will be accompanied to No.10 by his wife, Christine Ferguson, who is also a member of the Diplomatic Service, and his daughter, Antonia (20) from a previous marriage. Antonia teaches at a school for dyslexic children. Mr Banks, who has been our Consul in Kuwait since January 1988, will be with his wife, Liz, and their three children, Alison (20) presently at Birmingham University, Tim (19) who is at Blackheath Art College and Aidan (14) still at Stonyhurst College.

*Yours ever,*  
*S I Gass*

(S I Gass)  
Private Secretary

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