ST. ANDREW'S HOUSE *





The Rt Hon Tom King Esq MP
The Secretary of State for Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

CDO MAI

18 December 1990

Jean Tom

MEDICAL SUPPORT FOR BRITISH FORCES MIDDLE EAST

I refer to your letter of 14 December to the Prime Minister recommending the retention of the UK service hospitals and the consequent call for Territorial Army reservists from the NHS.

You suggest that a complete unit from Scotland should be deployed, the 205 General Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corp (Volunteer) based in Glasgow. I confirm that while this would create difficulties for the NHS in Scotland, I recognise the arguments and am prepared to support the proposal. I would suggest however that the impact of the removal of NHS personnel from Scottish hospitals is borne in mind at the stage when casualties are dispersed to NHS hospitals for treatment.

Copies of this letter go to members of OPD(G), the Lord President, the Secretary of State for Health, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and to Sir Robin Butler.

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