

IN CONFIDENCE



*Prime Minister  
To note  
AT 2/1/90*

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

TELEPHONE 071-21 89000  
DIRECT DIALLING 071-21 82111/3

D/S of S/PS3S

December 1990



*John Major*

I am writing to let you know that the US Air Force intend to deploy a number of A10 aircraft from RAF Alconbury to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield over the Christmas period.

A total of twenty-three aircraft are planned to leave RAF Alconbury on 27<sup>th</sup> December, between 8am and 9.30am, en route for Saudi Arabia. The reason for the early departure is that the aircraft are staging through Sicily, and the Americans are anxious to arrive before darkness falls.

I hope that your constituents will not be unduly disturbed by this air activity.

*2*  
*→*  
*1*

Tom King

The Rt Hon John Major MP

IN CONFIDENCE

IN CONFIDENCE

Annex B to:  
D/Sec(AS)35/11  
dated 18 Dec 1990

DEFENSIVE LINES TO TAKE ON DEPLOYMENT OF A10s FROM RAF ALCONBURY  
TO SAUDI ARABIA

- These A10 aircraft are being deployed from RAF Alconbury to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield.
  
- The UK Government has been consulted about the forward deployment of these UK-based aircraft.
  
- [If asked where/when/how USAF will use the A10s once they are in Saudi Arabia] This is a matter for the Americans.

IN CONFIDENCE