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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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MO 6/17/15/1J

28th December 1990

Dear Charles,

THE GULF: CALL-OUT OF SELECTED RESERVISTS

Now we have assessed the scale of the response to our request for volunteer reservists, it has become clear that there is a shortfall in the numbers and in the range of medical skills required. The shortfall is not as great as expected - some 233 to meet the Army medical support plan; my Secretary of State has however decided that a call-out of reserves will be necessary to meet this requirement.

He is also planning to call out No. 4626 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force in view of the specialised training and skills they possess in the field of medical evacuation. The Squadron is about 140 strong.

Since it will be necessary to start sending out call-out notices from midday today, we plan to issue an explanatory press release from the MOD shortly; a copy of this is attached.

I am copying this letter to Richard Gozney (FCO), Stephen Alcock (Health), Tim Sutton (Lord President's Office) and Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

(S J AMBLER-EDWARDS)(MISS)
Private Secretary

Sir Charles Powell KCMG
10 Downing Street

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CALL OUT OF SELECTED RESERVISTS

A substantial number of men and women reservists with medical skills have volunteered for active service in support of our commitments in the gulf. A requirement remains however in certain of the medical skills. The Secretary of State for Defence, Tom King, has therefore decided to call out some reservists under Section 10 of the Reserve Forces Act. In all cases, these will be personnel who have the Medical skills required.

It is anticipated that some further 250 individual Army reservists, in addition to those who originally volunteered, will be needed. Call out notices will be sent out to a number of people asking them to report for interview and assessment with a view to starting training at the beginning of January.

No 4626 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force - about 140 personnel - will also be called out in view of their highly specialised training and skills in the field of medical evacuation.

Under the Reserve Forces Act, all those called out will enjoy protection of civilian employment, the payment of a call-out gratuity and additional measures to supplement income where necessary.

The Secretary of State said:

"I am very encouraged by the number of reservists who have volunteered to help ensure that we have good medical support for our forces in the Gulf. Most of our additional needs have been met by these volunteers but we still need some extra reservists and it is for this purpose that the call out letters have been issued."