

Ref. A090/3128

MR APPLEYARDc - Sir C Powell (No 10)Options for dealing with an Iraqi withdrawal

During our visit to Washington, Mr Gates told me that he is conducting a very small working party to consider options for the alliance for dealing with a gimmick by Saddam Hussain. He had in mind that, if Saddam Hussain made some "offer", the alliance may need to make a very rapid response. He therefore hoped to clear the lines proposed by the United States with us in advance. Those taking part in his working party are Wolfowitz, Kimmit and Jeremiah. Nobody else knows about it.

2. Gates said that his group have seen no particular difficulty about offers of conditional withdrawal or partial withdrawal. We already have an established line on those, which is to reject them. The problem lies with protracted unconditional withdrawal. Here Gates has in mind, contrary to what we were previously informed, setting a series of deadlines for the Iraqis to vacate specific areas, starting with the coastal strip and the Island, and alliance forces filling in behind them. If Saddam Hussain protested that he was not able to get his equipment out in time, he would be told to get his soldiers out and come back for the equipment later.

3. I said that we would be very glad to discuss these options with him, and suggested that they should be discussed with our team for the inter agency talks, especially since the American side of these talks coincides so closely with the membership of his working party.

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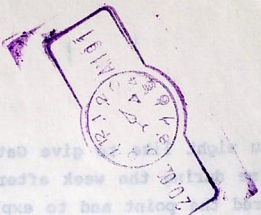
4. You might like to give Gates a ring on a secure telephone some time during the week after Christmas to show that we have registered the point and to explore whether he will be ready to discuss this when you go to Washington for the next round of inter agency talks.

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for ROBIN BUTLER

28 December 1990

(Approved by Sir Robin Butler  
and signed in his absence)



For right give Gates a ring on a secure telephone  
some time after Christmas to show that we have  
registered point and to explore whether he will be ready to  
discuss this when you go to Washington for the next round of  
inter-agency talks.

W. C. Sullivan  
for ROBIN BOUTER

(Approved by Bill Sullivan  
and signed in his absence)

28 December 1950