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10 DOWNING STREET  
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From the Private Secretary

30 December 1990

See record.

**THE GULF**

I wrote to you on 28 December about the Prime Minister's meeting with the Foreign Secretary at Chequers the previous day and their discussions of the Gulf. There was one point which I omitted: in the event that hostilities do take place, the Prime Minister would need to make a broadcast on the day they started to explain to the nation the reasons for the initiation of hostilities and why our forces were involved. It would be helpful if some early thought could be given to the shape and content of the statement which he would make in such circumstances.

I am copying this letter to Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence), John Neilson (Department of Energy), Juliet Wheldon (Law Officers' Department) and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely,

(CHARLES POWELL)

Richard Gozney, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.