



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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31 December 1990

Dear Charles,

Advice to British Communities in the Middle East

As you know, we have now issued advice to the dependents of British nationals in a number of Gulf countries that they should leave the area well before 15 January. The Foreign Secretary has been considering whether we should extend similar advice to the dependents of British nationals in Jordan, Yemen and Israel.

HM Ambassadors in all three countries recommend that British nationals should be advised to send their dependents home soon. They believe that in the event of hostilities, nationals of Western countries could be at risk from mob violence in Yemen, Jordan and the Occupied Territories. In Israel, civilians could be at risk from Iraqi missiles armed with chemical warheads.

Since the matter was last discussed in OPD(G), most Western countries (including Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and the US) have now advised their nationals to withdraw dependents from Yemen and Jordan. In some cases this advice has been extended to all nationals. France has advised dependents and non-essential staff in Jordan and Yemen to consider leaving. Italy has not yet issued advice to its nationals in Jordan and Yemen, but expects to do so soon.

In view of this, the Foreign Secretary proposes to issue at once Phase II advice for the dependents only of British nationals in Jordan and Yemen. But he does not intend, at this stage, to extend the advice to Israel or the Occupied Territories or to non-essential staff.

I am copying this letter to Private Secretaries of OPD(G) colleagues and to Sonia Phippard.

Yours ever
S. L. Cass
(S. L. Cass)
Private Secretary

Sir Charles D Powell KCMG
10 Downing Street

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