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CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS Telephone 071-270 0101

From the Secretary of the Cabinet and

Head of the Home Civil Service

Sir Robin Butler KCB CVO

3 January

Dear ~~Charles~~,

The CDS would like to be invited to go to the Gulf with the Prime Minister but cannot put the suggestion forward without the risk of putting Tony King's nose out of joint. It will be easier for him if the suggestion comes from you. I mentioned this to the PM this morning and said

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that Percy and I thought it a good idea. It seems to me appropriate that the military should recognise the importance of a visit by the PM by having the CDS present; and he will be able to give the PM the military background.

May I leave it with you?

Robin.