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nbpm

AS

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

John Durance Esq
Private Secretary to the
Minister of State for the Armed Forces
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
London
SW1

4 January 1991

Dear John,

US REQUEST FOR AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER FOR THE RED SEA

As

The Chief Secretary has seen your Minister's minute of 13 January and also Charles Powell's letter of 14 January listing a number of points on which the Prime Minister has asked for clarification.

2. The Chief Secretary shares the Prime Minister's scepticism over the case for this deployment. You will recall that, in paragraph 12b of his minute of 20 November on Gulf reinforcement options, Mr King warned of this possible approach but said that he was not then persuaded of the case. He went on to argue that "Maritime Operations is one area where other Allies can make substantial contributions and do more. I am also mindful that, while we must be prepared to pay our share of the cost of defeating this aggression, it will be very expensive and if this is an area where Allies can contribute they should be urged to do so."

3. If it is the case that the possibility of pressing our European Allies has not been pursued in the meantime, the Chief Secretary infers that the proposed deployment is not of the highest priority and that we should not be bounced into conceding it now. Presumably if the UK, or other European allies, were unable to make a contribution the Americans could still cope, either by retaining an aircraft carrier or - as suggested in Charles Powell's letter - using a smaller vessel.

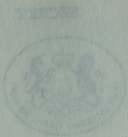
4. I am copying this letter to Charles Powell, to the Private Secretaries to Members of OPDG, and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely
Stephen Bowden

STEPHEN BOWDEN
Assistant Private Secretary

MIDDLE EAST: Sec PT36.

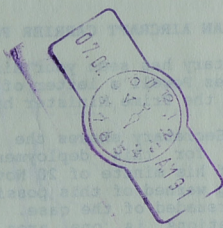
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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW 1P 3AG

John Darman, Esq.
Private Secretary to the
Minister of State for the Armed Forces
Ministry of Defence
White Hall Building
London
SW1

14 January 1951



RE REQUEST FOR AN ALIEN'S ENTRY FOR THE RED SEA
The Chief Secretary to the Treasury's minute of 4 January
and also the Chief Secretary to the Treasury's minute of 4 January
points out that the Treasury has asked for clarification
1. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury's minute of 4 January
over the case of the proposed employment. You will recall that in
paragraph 15 of the Treasury's minute of 10 November on this subject
it was stated that the Treasury's approach had been that the
case was not that of a normal alien but that of an alien who was
a "special case" and who would be treated as such. It was also
stated that the Treasury would be prepared to pay out of the
Treasury's account the cost of the alien's maintenance and
education. It was also stated that the Treasury would be prepared
to pay the cost of the alien's maintenance and education if the
Government could contribute towards the cost of the alien's
maintenance and education. It was also stated that the Treasury
would be prepared to pay the cost of the alien's maintenance and
education if the Government could contribute towards the cost of
the alien's maintenance and education.

I am copying this letter to Charles Powell, to the
Private Secretaries to Messrs. G. D. S. and to Sir Robin Butler.
Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN KNIGHT
Assistant Private Secretary