

RESTRICTED

*call
cc back-up*



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 071-21 82111/3

SECRETARY OF STATE

MO 6/17/15/1J

✓

8H January 1991

*Prime Minister
CDS 8/1*

Sir Charles,

CALL BY CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir David Craig (CDS) will be calling on the Prime Minister on Thursday. A copy of his curriculum vitae is attached. We expect that the Prime Minister will want primarily to ask Sir David about a number of issues arising from his visit to the Gulf and the Cabinet discussion earlier that morning.

The Prime Minister might care to be reminded of the constitutional conventions about the Chiefs of Staff. The latest position following the strengthening of the role of the CDS by Mr Heseltine in the mid-1980s is set out in the attached note.

Sir David Craig will be succeeded by General Sir Richard (Dick) Vincent at the end of March.

*Yours faithfully
Sue Webb*

(S WEBB)
Private Secretary

Sir Charles Powell KCMG
10 Downing Street





SECRETARY OF STATE

CHIEFS OF STAFF RIGHT OF ACCESS TO THE PRIME MINISTER

The right of access to the Prime Minister by the Chiefs of Staff was reaffirmed in Command 9315 - The Central Organisation for Defence - published in July 1984. The relevant part of paragraph 15 reads as follows:

"The Service Chiefs of Staff will continue as the professional heads of their Services and as members of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. They will remain fully responsible for the fighting effectiveness, management, overall efficiency and morale of their Services. They will in future normally report and tender advice through CDS to the Secretary of State while retaining their right of direct access to him and the Prime Minister."

This language is reflected in the Service Chiefs' directives from CDS which were approved in December 1984.

2. Formally the right of access can be exercised by a Chief of Staff as professional head of his Service and not just as a result of a collective Chiefs of Staff Committee decision. In practice, as was made explicit in Command 9315, the Chiefs of Staff normally report through the Chief of Defence Staff whose position as the Government's principal military adviser is recognised in his attendance of relevant meetings of Cabinet or its sub-Committees.



RESTRICTED

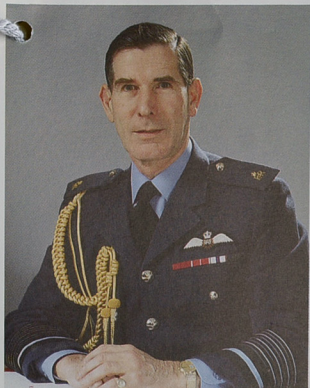


SECRETARY OF STATE

3. Following some sensitivity on the part of the then Chiefs of Staff about the new arrangements, Mrs Thatcher introduced the custom of visiting the Ministry of Defence once a year for a presentation. This gave the Single Service Chiefs an opportunity to meet and have lunch with the Prime Minister. The Defence Secretary would be pleased if the Prime Minister felt able to indicate that he was familiar with this practice and planned to continue it.



RESTRICTED



Marshal of the Royal Air Force
Sir David Craig, GCB, OBE, DSc, MA, FRAeS
Chief of the Defence Staff

Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir David Craig was born in 1929 and was educated at Radley College and Lincoln College, Oxford. He was commissioned into the Royal Air Force in 1951 and completed tours as a Qualified Flying Instructor on Meteors and as a Hunter Pilot in Fighter Command before being posted to the Air Ministry as a specialist in the guided weapons field.

After attending Staff College at Andover in 1962, he returned to flying duties in Vulcans as Commanding Officer of No. 35 Squadron from 1963 to 1965. He then served in the Ministry of Defence until 1968 in the post of Military Assistant to the Chief of the Defence Staff.

He was promoted to Group Captain in January 1968 and was Station Commander at the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell until August 1970 when he was posted to Headquarters Far East Command. He held the appointment of Director of Plans and Operations until the Headquarters closed down at the end of October 1971. He was then posted to Cyprus and, with the rank of Air Commodore, commanded RAF Akrotiri from January 1972 until December 1973.

He completed the Royal College of Defence Studies course in 1974 before assuming the post of Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Operations) in March 1975. He became Air Officer Commanding No. 1 Gp in July 1978, and Vice Chief of the Air Staff in May 1980.

He was Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Strike Command and Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Air Forces from September 1982 to August 1985 and returned to the Ministry of Defence in October 1985 to become Chief of the Air Staff until November 1988. He was promoted to Marshal of the Royal Air Force on 14 November 1988 and took up his current appointment of Chief of the Defence Staff on 9 December 1988.

Sir David was elected an Honorary Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford in 1984, and in 1988 Cranfield Institute of Technology honoured him by the award of the degree of Doctor of Science for his contribution to military aviation. He and his wife June have a son and a daughter and their home is in Norfolk. His hobbies include shooting, fishing and golf.



**Marshal of the
Royal Air Force
Sir David Craig**
GCB, OBE, DSc, MA, FRAeS

Chief
of the
Defence Staff

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
LONDON