

SECRET

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Spoken to
COS
are

Charles/ R X: This is wronging.

Your Commanders are unhappy this
could be v. difficult. Pl. R/Y
for COS

PRIME MINISTER

THE GULF

I spoke to General Scowcroft this evening. In brief:

7/10.1

- He passed along congratulations on the success of your visit, which had been very apparent in the United States.

- He confirmed that Tariq Aziz had "absolutely nothing" to offer in the talks in Geneva.

- He confirmed that the President's thinking on the timing of military action remained unchanged. I mentioned the concern of some of our military Commanders that ground forces would not be ready in time. He took the slightly cavalier attitude that we would just have to extend the air campaign if that was the case. But he thought American ground forces at least would be ready by end January.

- He asked what impression we had formed of the resolve of Gulf rulers. I said that I thought you had been pretty impressed by their firmness. You would no doubt be letting the President have a message summarising your impressions.

- He said that we must keep in closer touch than ever over the next days.

CDP

C. D. POWELL

9 January 1991

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