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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
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MO 6/17/15/1D

Prime Minister 9th January 1991

Yes. All Bly  
for it. ✓  
Dear Charles,

Relevant to your  
meeting with CDS  
CDS 9/1

OP GRANBY: OPERATIONAL READINESS

The Prime Minister asked what might be done to speed up the flow of battle-winning equipment and munitions, so that operational readiness could be brought forward.

Battle-winning Equipment

✓ All CHALLENGER and WARRIOR vehicles will be in Saudi Arabia and desert-modified by 15th January. However, up-armouring will be incomplete: kits are being moved by air, as fast as the manufacturer can supply them. Some 66% of CHALLENGER and 50% of WARRIOR should be upgraded by 22nd January, and both fleets should be fully enhanced by mid-February.

Ammunition

✓ We have taken steps to speed up supply by sea, including the replacement of the final ammunition ship with a faster vessel. All but this last ship are now at sea, and the final vessel is to sail on 10th January and is due to arrive by 31st January. Flying out the last ship-load would require some 100 Hercules flights with serious impact on other priority air movements at a critical time in the Gulf airlift.

Because Jericho ammunition is particularly important, but lighter than artillery rounds, all Jericho rounds are being flown direct to the Gulf on delivery from the manufacturer. Industry is working to capacity.

Sir Charles Powell KCMG  
No 10 Downing Street

Field Hospitals

All personnel for the Field Hospitals in direct support of 1(BR) Armoured Division and other UK forces will now be in-theatre by 17th January. The hospitals are due to be operational by the end of January and fully capable by 5th February.

The possible need to provide medical care for prisoner of war casualties has led to a recalculation of the total beds required in light of the latest estimate of PW numbers; provision will need to be made for up to 700 more beds. We hope that this requirement may be satisfied in whole or in part by other nations, but it cannot now be provided before the beginning of February at the earliest. If the additional beds are not operational in-theatre by the time casualties (including PW casualties) are taken, there will be a proportionate impact on the level of care available for our own servicemen, if we abide by the Geneva Convention requirement to treat all casualties equally.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Gozney (FCO) and Sir Robin Butler.

*Tom Swin*  
*Sam Webb*

(S WEBB)  
Private Secretary