

Psychological warfare

Help for Jordan refugees.

Physics to Iraq or from Iraq?

PRIME MINISTER

AD HOC GROUP ON THE GULF

You are to chair the meeting of the Ad Hoc Group on the Gulf tomorrow. I have suggested that they assemble here. You will find the agenda for the meeting and the points discussed at today's meeting immediately below this note.

I imagine that your main objective will be first to invigorate the Group: and second to check points which may come up at your press conference.

Cabinet Office will do a fuller brief in the morning.

Running through the agenda items briefly:

Current situation - oral report by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

You will have already gone through most of the items at the preceding meeting of Ministers. The Group's interest is likely to focus on the prospects for a UN Resolution permitting the use of force to implement the embargo, and the US's determination to interdict the two Iraqi ships currently moving up the Gulf. I am afraid that a vote on the UN Resolution is unlikely until tomorrow at the earliest.

Another issue is the continued removal of British people from Kuwait, and the renewed Iraqi warning that all foreign Embassies in Kuwait must close by Friday this week. You will want to satisfy yourself about the action we are taking on both issues (which will feature largely at the press briefing).

Current situation - oral report by the Ministry of Defence

The main question here concerns the additional aircraft we should send to the area. You have ruled that extra air defence aircraft should go to the smaller Gulf States: and Tornado ground attack aircraft be moved forward to Cyprus.

U.N. resd.
Iraqi ships where?
Info from satellites?
Kuwait Embassy

Observance of the UN embargo

There is still considerable ambivalence about Jordan's role. There are also suspicions that Iran may not enforce the embargo very effectively.

Safeguards against terrorism

You could ask Transport and the Security Service to report on their meeting with British Airways; and Mr. Appleyard to report on the meeting of the Terrorism Sub-committee.

Press Pools for the Gulf

You may want to raise the issue of slightly expanding pool facilities for the British Press to visit our forces in the Gulf.

CDP

CDP

20 August 1990

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