



file 10(A-C)  
A: IRAQ

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*From the Private Secretary*

21 August 1990

SUBJECT CCMASTER

IRAQ/KUWAIT

The Prime Minister had a meeting this morning with the Attorney General, the Minister of State, FCO (Mrs. Chalker) and the Minister for Defence Procurement to discuss the latest developments in the Gulf crisis. The Chief of the Defence Staff and Sir Percy Cradock were also present.

United Nations Security Council Resolution on enforcement of sanctions against Iraq

I have written separately about this. I understand that there is now a later draft text (UKMIS New York telegram no.1048) which meets the main concerns expressed at the meeting.

OECD

It was noted that there had been a useful discussion in the OECD the previous day on the implementation of sanctions, with general acceptance that the sanctions should apply to export of food to Iraq.

ICRC

It was noted that the UK had already participated in two approaches to the ICRC (on 8 and 10 August) to seek their intervention over Iraq's treatment of foreigners, both in Iraq itself and in Kuwait, but without much effect so far. The Minister of State, FCO (Mr. Waldegrave) would be seeing the ICRC in Geneva this afternoon. We should continue to press hard for their involvement and draw attention publicly to their failure to act up until now. The Prime Minister subsequently referred to this at her press conference.

Assistance to Jordan to cope with refugees

It was noted that our Ambassador in Amman was in favour of our offering some practical assistance with the reception arrangements for refugees from Iraq at the Iraq/Jordan border. The Minister of State, FCO (Mrs. Chalker) agreed to investigate urgently what the ODA might provide and make a recommendation.

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Advice to British citizens in Jordan

It was reported that the US Government had given low-key advice to its citizens in Jordan to consider leaving, and this had created a very bad effect with the Jordanian authorities. It was agreed that there was no case for giving similar advice to British citizens at this juncture.

British citizens in Iraq and Kuwait

It was noted that 134 British citizens in Kuwait had now been rounded up by the Iraqi authorities. Although we had no precise information on their whereabouts, there was reason to think that they had not (or not yet) been placed in military areas or installations. We had no news of the whereabouts of some 223 British citizens who had initially been taken from Kuwait to Baghdad.

Rules of engagements for the Armilla Patrol

The Minister for Defence Procurement reported that the Defence Secretary would shortly be putting further recommendations to the Prime Minister about the rules of engagement for ships of the Armilla Patrol, in the event that ships suspected of breaking the UN embargo did not respond to warning shots or to shots aimed at the funnel.

Dispatch of further RAF aircraft to the Gulf

The Minister for Defence Procurement reported that the Defence Secretary would be putting recommendations to the Prime Minister very shortly for the dispatch of further aircraft to the Gulf and for steps we might take to strengthen the personal protection of the Rulers of some of the smaller Gulf States. The Prime Minister emphasised her determination that our military contribution should be an adequate one and the United Kingdom should not be marginalised.

Military and civil air training for Iraqis

The Prime Minister asked for confirmation that we were not any longer providing military or civil air training for Iraqis.

Sanctions-busting

The Prime Minister expressed concern at intelligence reports which indicated that Libya and Yemen (and possibly other countries) might already be engaged in breaking the UN embargo by airlifting cargo to Iraq. She asked for urgent consideration of steps which might be taken to prevent this.

Financial assistance to Jordan

It was noted that the Foreign Secretary would be discussing with European colleagues today the possibility of financial assistance to help Jordan cope with the consequences of applying sanctions. The Prime Minister agreed to raise with Prince Bandar the possibility that Saudi Arabia would supply oil on favourable

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terms to Jordan, possibly restoring the Saudi Arabia/Jordan pipeline which has fallen into disuse.

I am copying this letter to Jane Binstead and David Hatcher (Ministry of Defence), Elisabeth Wilmshurst (Attorney General's Chambers) and Len Appleyard (Cabinet Office).

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