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WOP²
Prime Minister

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

To be aware

From the Private Secretary

10 September 1990

CDP
10/9

Dear Simon,

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THE GULF: SAUDI REACTIONS TO BUSH/GORBACHEV SUMMIT

I should perhaps record that Prince Bandar contacted me in quite a state yesterday, after watching the Bush/Gorbachev press conference on Sky television. He was very alarmed at the constant harping on a peaceful solution, and the lack of clear acknowledgment of the military option. This would go down very badly in Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries and be seen as a sign of weakness. He wondered whether the President would be passing through London on his way back and could provide some reassurance to the Prime Minister that the military option had not been ruled out.

I sent Prince Bandar - who was in London - the text of the joint statement and drew attention to the reference to 'additional' steps. He was somewhat mollified by this. He asked whether we could give him an account of any briefing which the President gave the Prime Minister. I said we would consider this: it would have to be through Antony Acland in Washington. When General Scowcroft telephoned me later in the evening from Air Force One, I told him about Bandar's concern, and suggested that he might contact him direct to set his mind at rest.

Prince Bandar has decided to travel to Washington today, so as to be there when the President addresses Congress tomorrow. He has therefore withdrawn his request to see the Prime Minister (who does not get back to London until tonight).

I am copying this letter to Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence) and to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES POWELL

Simon Gass Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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