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cc: [signature]



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 October 1990

Dear Charles,

Letter from Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister

Thank you for your letter of 24 October, ^{AOP} enclosing a message to the Prime Minister from Shaikh Sa'ad in his capacity as Chairman of the Kuwaiti People's Conference.

The Foreign Secretary thinks that the Prime Minister should reply to Shaikh Sa'ad, despite her recent meeting with the Amir. The Kuwaiti Minister of Planning, Al Mutawa, told us on 25 October, that Shaikh Sa'ad had gone out on a limb at the Taif Conference to encourage the Al Sabah along the democratic track to which he was committed but about which others were still hesitant. There is little doubt that Shaikh Sa'ad's insistence on restoring the 1962 Constitution was largely responsible for rallying the Kuwaiti opposition at Taif and ensuring a united outcome. Al Mutawa, who is emerging as a key spokesman for the Kuwaiti Government, also told us of his difficulties in persuading the Amir and Sheikh Sa'ad actively to project a positive image of Kuwait and its cause in the foreign media.

Al Mutawa asked us to send a political signal which would encourage the Al Sabah to stick to agreements made at Taif on future democratic development and to adopt a higher media profile. Both are important ingredients in maintaining the cohesion of the anti-Saddam alliance. A reply from the Prime Minister would undoubtedly have an impact and strengthen Shaikh Sa'ad's hand: Al Mutawa told us that Britain was seen by the Kuwaitis as "a driving force in the international coalition".

/ The enclosed draft reply is in terms which would permit publication.

[Signature]
(S L Gass)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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DRAFT LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER

TO: HH Shaikh Sa'ad al Abdullah Al Salim al Sabah
Crown Prince and Prime Minister
State of Kuwait

Thank you for your letter of 19 October. I read with great interest and admiration the conclusions of the Kuwait People's Conference, on whose success I congratulate your Highness and the Kuwaiti people. For our part, we remain fully committed to achieving the objectives reaffirmed at the Conference, namely the unconditional and complete withdrawal of Iraq's forces from Kuwait, and the restoration of her legitimate government.

I share your outrage at the reports, which we continue to receive, of the behaviour of the Iraqi occupying forces. I wish to express my deep sympathy to the families of victims of Saddam Hussein's inhuman actions. Those responsible for the devastation of Kuwait and her way of life must be made to pay.

The tyranny and ruthlessness of the Iraqi regime stands in sharp contrast to the commitment of the legitimate Government of Kuwait to the principles of consultation, democracy and popular participation under the 1962 Constitution confirmed in the declaration of the Kuwaiti People's National Conference. The clear expression by the Kuwaiti people and government of their united support for democratic values will be a potent reminder to international public opinion of the justice of the cause to which we are committed.

It is vital to maintain the unprecedented degree of international solidarity against Saddam Hussein, and to convince him of the determination of the world community that he withdraw from Kuwait. As part of that effort public opinion must be focussed on the plight of the Kuwaiti people, the wanton destruction of Kuwait itself, and the urgent need to reverse Saddam Hussein's brutal aggression. We shall be happy to do what we can to support Kuwaiti efforts to ensure that international opinion does not lose sight of these issues.

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