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pt 33 (1)

10A(a-b)

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING OF MINISTERS: THE GULF

You have a meeting of Ministers tomorrow afternoon to discuss the latest developments in the Gulf. The main points to cover are set out below.

DIPLOMATIC

Activity at the UN

You mentioned to President Bush the idea of a presentation to the Security Council on Iraqi brutalities in Kuwait. He was enthusiastic. We should now pursue this vigorously.

The Americans for their part clearly envisage further resolutions in the course of their Presidency of the Security Council, probably of a portmanteau type.

The Security Council is likely to return to the Palestinian question this week.

Hostages

The latest Iraqi statements about releasing foreign hostages in return for guarantees from certain countries that Iraq would not be attacked, are not very specific.

Sanctions

You visited the Embargo Surveillance Unit On Thursday.

A JIC assessment shows Iraq has enough oil to keep its military machine going for some months.

Meeting with King Hussein

You are seeing King Hussein in Geneva on Tuesday. The recommendation is that you should go easy on him this time, in view of improved Jordanian performance on sanctions. You will want to say that we are urging other countries to disburse aid for Jordan quickly.

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Embassies in Kuwait

The President clearly remains deeply preoccupied about the US embassy in Kuwait, and said that Secretary Baker would wish to discuss this with you.

Meanwhile, officials have prepared a paper (in the folder) about the position of the British and American Embassies. They recommend we should question that the Americans re-provision their Embassy: should avoid a joint withdrawal: and should review the position of our own Embassy in mid-November.

MILITARY

US Forces

The President confirmed to you today that the US would be sending additional forces to the Gulf. He did not demur when you said we must be ready to initiate military action by early January at latest. You offered help with transport for US forces: and said that we would see what reserves we could make available in Germany, to be moved to the Gulf if necessary.

[NOT ALL THOSE PRESENT WILL BE AWARE OF THE FULL DETAILS OF YOUR TALK WITH THE PRESIDENT AND MY TALK WITH SCOWCROFT].

C. D. P.

C. D. POWELL

4 November 1990

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