

SECRET



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*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBIN BUTLER  
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HANDLING OF THE GULF CRISIS

I share your aversion to prolonging this correspondence. But your latest minute is tantamount to suggesting that I deliberately misreported a discussion, and cannot be left unanswered.

The joint recollection of Mr. Turnbull and myself is that the Prime Minister reported the President as wishing to maintain the special and important channel of communication to the White House on the Gulf. So far as I am aware, that exists only between No. 10 and the White House.

Similarly the joint recollection and understanding of Mr. Turnbull and myself is that the Prime Minister agreed that Sir Antony Acland should be informed of all direct contacts between No. 10 and the White House, and should be used when appropriate to deliver specific messages. But the main channel of communication should remain through No. 10.

C.D.P.

C. D. POWELL  
10 December 1990

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