

Ref. AO90/2997

MR POWELL

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Handling of the Gulf Crisis

Many thanks for your minute of 4 December.

2. I do not want to prolong this exchange, but I think it worth putting on record that there were two important differences between your note of my discussion with the Prime Minister and my recollection. One is that your minute suggested that the President of the United States had requested specifically that Number 10 should remain the main point of contact with General Scowcroft, whereas I heard the Prime Minister say no such thing. The second was that you recorded the Prime Minister as deciding that Number 10 should remain the main point of contact with General Scowcroft and the White House whereas what actually happened was that I was suggesting that Sir Anthony Acland should be used when that would be helpful (though your link should also continue) and the Prime Minister assented.

3. These are not insignificant differences. I comment separately on your personal minute.

R.B.

ROBIN BUTLER

10 December 1990