



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 December 1990

Cole JM
WFO
Pres

Dear Paddy,

As you know, on 6 December Saddam Hussein wrote to the Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly proposing that travel restrictions on foreigners in Iraq should be lifted. The National Assembly approved this on 7 December. Our Embassy in Baghdad spent the weekend trying to establish that all our nationals in Iraq and Kuwait would be free to return home. This was finally confirmed by the Iraqis. We estimate that there are about 1,100 of our nationals in Iraq and Kuwait. We expect the majority will want to return home. We are strongly urging everyone to do so.

Our aim is to get everyone back as quickly as possible. The first party arrived this morning at Heathrow on a British Airways aircraft. We have chartered aircraft to bring the bulk of the remainder home and a Boeing 747 is due to arrive at Gatwick this evening. A further 747 will leave Baghdad tomorrow, having connected with two aircraft we are sending down to Kuwait to pick up the community there. They should arrive at Gatwick tomorrow evening.

At this stage we expect most of the remainder to take normal commercial flights from Baghdad to Amman and to fly on from there. But we will send our aircraft to pick them up if the flow cannot be handled by scheduled flights.

The communities are being kept informed by announcements over the World Service of the BBC and by the Embassies through the wardens.

We are also taking steps to make sure that people are offered advice and help on practical matters once they are back.

I thought you would find it useful to know how we are proceeding.

Your sincerely,
P.A.



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LONDON SW1A 2AA

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10 December 1990

Dear Jim,

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Ali
WFO
Pres

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Your sincerely,
John

— 2 —



Ali M
UKW
Pres

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 December 1990

Dear David,

As you know, on 6 December Saddam Hussein wrote to the Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly proposing that travel restrictions on foreigners in Iraq should be lifted. The National Assembly approved this on 7 December. Our Embassy in Baghdad spent the weekend trying to establish that all our nationals in Iraq and Kuwait would be free to return home. This was finally confirmed by the Iraqis. We estimate that there are about 1,100 of our nationals in Iraq and Kuwait. We expect the majority will want to return home. We are strongly urging everyone to do so.

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Yours sincerely,
John

— 2 —



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THE PRIME MINISTER

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At this stage we expect most of the remainder to take normal commercial flights from Baghdad to Amman and to fly on from there. But we will send our aircraft to pick them up if the flow cannot be handled by scheduled flights.

etc
also
Pres

[Handwritten mark]

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We are also taking steps to make sure that people are offered advice and help on practical matters once they are back.

I thought you would find it useful to know how we are proceeding.

Your sincerely,
John H.

210/12



Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

10 December 1990

Mr Charles,

British Communities in Iraq and Kuwait

We spoke about the Prime Minister's wish to write to political leaders. I enclose a draft letter which explains the steps we are taking to get our people home as quickly as possible from Iraq and Kuwait.

If the Prime Minister is content the, Mr Hogg would be willing to write to the remaining party leaders.

Yours ever

(S L Gass) (Private)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER

SA

TO:

The Rt Hon Neil Kinnock MP and
The Rt Hon Paddy Ashdown MP

*Mr - Hon James Callaghan
Mr - Hon David Owen.*

As you know, on 6 December Saddam Hussein wrote to the Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly proposing that travel restrictions on foreigners in Iraq should be lifted. The National Assembly approved this on 7 December. Our Embassy in Baghdad ^{sent the letter} immediately sought ^{urgent clarification} that all our nationals in Iraq and Kuwait would be free to return home. This was ^{confirmed} by the Iraqis ~~over the weekend.~~

We estimate that there are about 1,100 ^{British} ~~British~~ ^{of our} nationals in Iraq and Kuwait. We expect the majority will want to return home. We are strongly urging everyone to do so.

Our aim is to get everyone back as quickly as possible. The first party arrived this morning at Heathrow on a British Airways aircraft. We have chartered aircraft to bring the bulk of the remainder home ~~home~~ and a Boeing 747 is due to arrive at Gatwick this evening. A further 747 will leave Baghdad tomorrow, having connected with two aircraft we are sending down to Kuwait to pick up the community there. They should arrive at Gatwick tomorrow evening. We will lay on further aircraft if necessary. ~~But~~ ^{but} at this stage we expect most of the remainder to take normal commercial flights from Baghdad to Amman and to fly on from there.

But
↳

We will send out aircraft to pick them up if the flow cannot be handled by scheduled flights. // The communities are being kept informed by announcements over the World Service of the BBC and by the Embassies through the wardens.

~~ensuring that our people~~ ^{taking steps to make sure that people} are offered advice and help on practical matters once they are back.

~~I will keep you informed of any further developments.~~

I thought you would find it useful to know how we are proceeding.