

CONFIDENTIAL
THE RT HON JOHN WAKEHAM MP



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Sir Charles Powell KCMG
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
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9 January 1991

Dear Charles

THE GULF: OIL SUPPLIES

Thank you for your letter of 9 January and the copy of President Bush's message to the Prime Minister in relation to the meeting of the IEA Governing Board.

My Secretary of State would propose that a reply be sent on the following lines:

"Thank you for your message, received earlier today, about the line the IEA should take in advance of the 15 January deadline.

We have no problem with the proposal that the IEA Governing Board should meet on Friday and, as you know, the UK Chairman of the Governing Board has agreed that the meeting be convened. I attach particular importance to maintaining the consensus within the IEA which has held good since the crisis began. The UK representatives at the meeting will be under instructions to play a constructive part in maintaining that consensus".

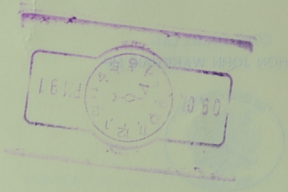
President Bush's message included the proposal that Mr Major take up personally with Chancellor Kohl the question of reaching agreement on the lines proposed by the US. Although the UK does have a special role through its chairmanship of the IEA Governing Board, we do not feel an approach of this kind would be advisable. For this reason we have chosen to remain silent on the point in the suggested reply to the President.

*Yours
John*

J S NEILSON
Principal Private Secretary

P.S. Copies as before.

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