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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: FRANK C. CARLUCCI

SUBJECT: Letter from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

Prime Minister Thatcher has written you a letter in regard to the Iran-Iraq war. Mrs. Thatcher combines her support of our actions to date and our policy objectives with a suggestion that if we want Iran to stop attacking Kuwaiti and other vessels in the Persian Gulf, we ought to seek to halt Iraqi attacks on Iranian shipping. Mrs. Thatcher hopes to discuss this matter further when she sees you next Friday.

Attachment

Tab A Letter from Prime Minister Thatcher

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598-004 # 139
Cds 7/4/00

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

July 9, 1987

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ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR FRANK C. CARLUCCI

FROM: FRITZ W. ERMARTH *FWE*
NELSON C. LEDSKY

SUBJECT: Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Letter
re Iran-Iraq War

Prime Minister Thatcher, in anticipation of her visit to Washington next week, has written to the President about the Iran-Iraq war (Tab A). Her message is one of support for our actions to date and our policy objectives, combined with a suggestion that if we want Iran to stop attacking Kuwaiti and other vessels in the Persian Gulf, we ought to seek a halt to Iraqi attacks on Iranian shipping. Mrs. Thatcher does not underestimate the difficulties of her suggested course of action, but clearly would like to discuss it further when she meets with the President next Friday.

Bill Burns concurs. *WFB*

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum for the President at Tab I.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Attachments

Tab I Memo for President
Tab A Ltr from Prime Minister Thatcher

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NSC #8705176

598-004 #138
Chs... 7/14/87

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520
July 14, 1987**SECRET**516
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00167MEMORANDUM FOR MR. FRANK C. CARLUCCI
THE WHITE HOUSESubject: Recommendation regarding Response to President Reagan
by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

Reference: S/S 8719690, July 9, 1987

On July 7, 1987 Prime Minister Thatcher replied to the President's letter of June 29 about ongoing diplomatic efforts at the United Nations Security Council on the Iran-Iraq war. Thatcher committed her government to support the mandatory ceasefire resolution and pledged support for a follow-up arms embargo resolution "if others do". In fact, the British Mission in New York has been very supportive of our recent efforts.

Prime Minister Thatcher also notes that a way need be found to address Iraqi air attacks on Iranian tankers. She rightly points out that Iraq will be reluctant to give up or cut back on such attacks. She closes the letter saying that she looks forward to discussing "all this" during her July 17 meeting with the President.

Both the President and the Secretary are prepared to discuss the U.N. Security Council resolution -- which will probably be introduced on Monday, July 20. Our position -- and that of the British -- are in consonance.

We have confidentially approached the Iraqis to strongly urge that they pursue, in the context of accepting the favorable and comprehensive resolution, a ceasefire/moratorium on the Gulf shipping war. We hope they will do this even in the face of an Iranian rejection of the resolution. We do not have a formal response from the Iraqis, but we do have informal indications that they are actively considering such a unilateral declaration. After the resolution is passed, and Iraq accepts it, we intend to urge the Saudis, Jordanians and Egyptians to weigh in with the Iraqis on a shipping war ceasefire. If the British were to make similar efforts, it would be useful to this effort to nudge the Iraqis to such a decision.

SECRET

DECL: OADR

FORM NO. 64

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We do not believe that the Prime Minister's letter need be answered in writing, but the subjects it raises will be on Friday's agenda.

Melwyn Levitsky
Melvyn Levitsky
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

July 7, 1987 Letter from
Prime Minister Thatcher

~~SECRET~~