

PRIME MINISTER'

Iran/Iraq War: Guidelines for Loan Service Personnel

You were invited to approve earlier some guidelines for the involvement of UK Loan Service Personnel in the event of an external attack on the Gulf State in which they are serving.

You queried the description of the legal position in the Defence Secretary's minute of 25 April (Flag A).

The MOD Have now commented on your observations (Flag B). You were quite right. You wrote to the Sultan in July 1982 accepting that our LSP should play their full part in Oman's defence in the event of a direct threat which did not allow time for consultation, emphasising our wish to be consulted before any commitment outside Oman's territorial limits.

Oman is an exceptional case. It is not envisaged that the guidelines now under discussion would be issued to our Ambassador in Oman - only to those in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE.

The Foreign Secretary and the Defence Secretary are now content that these guidelines (Flag C) should be issued. Agree?

*l agree not*

*N.B. The Oman point that I was referring to was not in 1982, which I don't remember, but the weekend [1972 or 1980?] the Iran Iraq war started.*

18 May 1984

*It was then that I was given the advice that I referred to - whether it related only to Oman LSP or to LSP generally I cannot remember. not.*