

PM Personal



February 7

KENSINGTON PALACE

1980

My dear Prime Minister,

I write

delatedly to thank you for your kind letter. I just had to have some things dug out of my face but luckily everything went well and weren't worrying.

I was so interested to hear about your visit to the United States. I expect you surprised them no end at answering their questions in a positive way, when they are

used to waffling on for hours in figures
of 8, not actually answering anything.
The steel strike is depressing. I well
remember when Charles Vilkin
took it over. I congratulated him
on his courage and he said,
"I am taking on a moribund,
old fashioned, out of date, uneconomical,
out of date industry" and I said
"Is there any hope of improving it?"
and he said "Very little".

I suppose if one is an ordinary
working man and one's union
tells one not to vote for new
machinery or technology because
otherwise you will lose your job or
your card - you just don't dare.



KENSINGTON PALACE

I went to Cambridge for a Debate
(rather dull, all about the church,
lots of clerics) and found them all
rabid conservatives - not a
Trotskyite to argue with! They were
passionately against the Olympic
Games in Moscow. I tried the
"hit it hard on the athletes" bit
but they were adamant. I suppose
individuals must choose whether
to go as it's up to the Olympic Committee.
If that silly boxer doesn't make a
hash of it he might get Africa to

Cock a snook at the Russians.

I find it quite impossible to find out
What is happening in Afghanistan.

Are they about to wheel in to Iran
and get all the oil? more power

to your policy of nuclear power stations.

I wish they weren't called "nuclear"
as people always think of the bomb.
I've been advocating them since I was
20!

many thanks for allocating £10,000
to the N.S.P.C.E. They are vital and
I am President and support their
free service.

with again many thanks for you letter
yours very sincerely

Targant



Royal Member
Personal

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Wednesday, 9th Jan. 19

Madam

I was very distressed to hear that you had been in hospital again and hope that all went well.

You very kindly wrote to me after your own visit to the United States which was wonderfully successful both in the admission you won and in the financial results

Kept by
the PM.

H.R.H. Princess Margaret

for Covent Garden. Incidentally I
went to Covent Garden on New Year's
Eve and Clara Bowen was still
talking of your son.

As you know, I went to the
United States just before Christmas
but only to Washington & New York.
I cannot help feeling that Washington
is much more isolated from America
than London is from Britain. Then
as now I can see the hostages demanded



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

every consideration, and understandably
so. That events in Afghanistan have
cast a shadow over the whole world.
If only Iran had never taken the
hostages, we would now release them,
we should be in a far better position
to tackle the Russian threat in that
part of the world. We must back
America in her efforts through the
United Nations but let it be felt that
action on our part will make much
impression on the Iranian students.

Waldheim had a dreadful loss
there - worse than anyone could have
anticipated. Nevertheless he would have
been criticized if he hadn't tried.

In New York I spoke to the
biggest luncheon ever. Some 3,000
people - and we took questions
afterwards. I found it fascinating -
they are so easy to please and so
delighted if you say what you
really think. Walter Cronkite was in
the chair and he is a very skilled



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

fo

and alternative chairman.

Now the new year has
started with a steel strike and
it is difficult to see why because
the two sides were really far away
from one another. But after so many
years of incomes policies in which
people have come to expect an
annual increase for nothing, it is
difficult to get across the message
that more money has to be earned



LETTER BOOK

and not- just demerited.

To-day I am just off to
take the chair at 'Nuddy' - for
the first time. Hardly the best
moment - but we were not to
know that when the meeting was
fixed

All good wishes for the
New Year.

I remain, your humble and
devoted servant.

Margaret Dehler