

Translation

Germany, July '80
Rudolf Hess

From: Helmut Schmidt, Federal Chancellor of the
Federal Republic of Germany

To: The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Her Majesty's Prime Minister and First Lord of
the Treasury

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE**

SERIAL No. T 184/82

Dear Margaret,

The state of health of Rudolf Hess, who is now 88 years old and is - as the only inmate of the allied military prison at Berlin-Spandau - serving a life sentence, clearly gives grounds for concern. I should therefore like to draw your attention once more to the fate of this man who has been imprisoned for over 41 years now and appeal to you, irrespective of the question of legal and moral guilt, to enable him for humanitarian reasons through an act of clemency to spend the last days of his life with his family.

Rudolf Hess has given his word of honour to his son that, on being released, he will not comment in any way on historical, contemporary or political questions.

I should also be grateful if you could grant the relatives of Rudolf Hess their wish that, in the event of his death in prison, his body be handed over to them for burial.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd.) Helmut Schmidt