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PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T170A/82

My dear Bagat

The Australian Government and people, like the rest of the international community, have been anguished by the suffering inflicted on the people of Lebanon by the conflict there.

Lebanon has been caught in the cross-fire of a conflict in which it wanted no part.

We are today heartened by the major progress made in the peace plans so strenuously pursued in recent days. Their implementation can provide the vital ingredients for a peaceful Lebanon free of the presence of outside armed forces and in which the sovereignty of the Lebanese people is re-established. We are mindful, however, of the grave risk of renewal of armed conflict.

But if the way forward is to enable Lebanon to achieve political stability and to regain its integrity, there must be a simultaneous rebuilding of Lebanon's shattered infrastructure. The Lebanese people's material suffering must also be relieved.

I hope you will agree that the supporters of Lebanon should now unite to assist in the massive task of reconstruction which lies ahead. My own Government has decided to provide a special initial sum of \$10 million and we hope that other advanced aid donor countries might match that contribution on a comparative basis.

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I invite your Government to contribute generously so that the reality of our concern will be demonstrated and so that there is in being an international reconstruction effort commensurate with the scale of the problems in the Lebanon.

You Sincerely
Richard Stone

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister of Great Britain
LONDON SW1
UNITED KINGDOM