

TEXT

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April 18, 1980

Dear Prime Minister,

In the light of recent developments in the international situation concerning Iran, I have the honour to send you the following message :

I think that the Lisbon Declaration of the Foreign Ministers Conference of Nine EC countries was very timely. We fully supported the declaration and were pleased to respond to the initiative of the EC countries to join the common step. I have received reports from our Ambassador in Tehran who met with President Bani Sadr together with the Ambassadors of the EC countries. Much to our regret, it seems that the release of the hostages will have to wait, at the earliest, until the new Iranian Parliament is convened.

The U.S. has up to now acted with enormous patience despite many difficulties, but their patience seems to be approaching the limit. If the U.S. takes extreme unilateral action before the Iranian Parliament is convened, this will have far too serious consequences on the whole international community, and I think such a course must be avoided on all accounts. In time of such a crisis, we should not let the U.S. feel isolated. Europe and Japan, therefore, must co-operate in taking some measures in support of the U.S. I believe that you are of the same view. Europe and Japan should maintain closest contact with each other to cope with this serious situation.

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With regard to economic measures against Iran, we are prepared to act in concert with Europe. Regarding our concerted measures, we would like to be fully informed of your position and would also like to inform you of our views. For the moment, we continue to observe the Six-Point Consensus relating to financial and oil transactions, while maintaining a close watch on the recent developments.

With regard to the hostages themselves, as President Bani Sadr seems to be making efforts to arrange further meetings by third parties, I should like to suggest that Europe and Japan make a joint approach to Iran to encourage his efforts in this direction. Particularly, if a meeting of the hostages with their families can be arranged, it will certainly be a step forward. I would like to have your views on making such a joint approach. I should also like to suggest that while we, both Europe and Japan, continue our efforts to support the U.S., we make a common appeal to the U.S. to act with further patience though the difficult situation in which President Carter finds himself deserves fullest sympathy.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

MASAYOSHI OHIRA
Prime Minister of Japan

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury,
London.