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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T33/81

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PARIS FROM LONDON
CONFIDENTIAL GOVERNMENTAL 0028
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C O N F I D E N T I A L
MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT GISCARD

MY DEAR PRESIDENT,

AS YOU KNOW, I AM LEAVING LONDON TODAY FOR A THREE-DAY VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES DURING WHICH I SHALL BE SEEING PRESIDENT REAGAN AND THE LEADING MEMBERS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION, AS WELL AS DR. WALDHEIM IN NEW YORK. I THINK THAT YOU, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND I HAVE A VERY GOOD UNDERSTANDING ON THE SUBJECTS WHICH ARE LIKELY TO ARISE. MY IMPRESSION IS THAT MR. REAGAN AND HIS TEAM ARE SOME WAY FROM HAVING MADE UP THEIR MIND ABOUT MANY OF THE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS. I BELIEVE ALSO THAT THEY ARE SINCERE IN SEEKING CLOSER CONSULTATION AND HARMONISATION OF POLICY WITH THEIR EUROPEAN ALLIES. THIS GIVES US IN EUROPE AN OPPORTUNITY OF WHICH I SHALL TRY TO MAKE THE BEST USE, AS I HAVE NO DOUBT JEAN FRANCOIS-PONCET IS DOING DURING HIS OWN VISIT THIS WEEK. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO EXCHANGE IMPRESSIONS LATER WITH PETER CARRINGTON, WHO WILL IN ANY CASE BE BRIEFING THE COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON ON FRIDAY.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONFIRM TO YOU WHAT I SAID IN MY MESSAGE OF 18 FEBRUARY ABOUT THE FISHERIES QUESTION, THAT WE HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON THIS AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON 9-10 MARCH. WE, FOR OUR PART, WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO BRING THIS ABOUT.

I AM GLAD THAT A COMPROMISE HAS NOW BEEN REACHED ON ACCESS FOR NEW ZEALAND BUTTER. I ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO MAKING DECISIVE PROGRESS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS ON THE OTHER MAIN OUTSTANDING ISSUES OF COMMUNITY BUSINESS, AGRICULTURAL PRICES FOR 1981 AND FISHERIES. MY REPRESENTATIVE MR. MICHAEL FRANKLIN HAS EXPLAINED THESE VIEWS TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE SGGI, M. PIERRE ACHARD. I AM NOT SUGGESTING THESE ISSUES BE LINKED. EACH MUST BE RESOLVED ON ITS MERITS. BUT I DO SEE REAL ADVANTAGE TO US ALL, AND TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, IF THESE MATTERS CAN BE RESOLVED SPEEDILY AND WITHOUT UNDUE PUBLIC DISPUTE. SUCH DISPUTE WOULD BENEFIT NEITHER OF US IN THE LONG TERM.

YOURS SINCERELY

MARGARET THATCHER.

25 FEBRUARY 1981
BT

SENT AT 1052^z P.m.